

Arab MK takes part for first time in defense budget talks

EVELYN GORDON

AN Arab MK participated for the first time ever yesterday in a joint Knesset committee session on the defense budget, but will still be barred from a subcommittee that will handle all classified matters. This arrangement was worked out after MK Ahmed Sa'ad (Hadash), a member of the Knesset Finance Committee, insisted on coming to yesterday's joint meeting of the Finance and Foreign Affairs and Defense committees. It is similar to the deal worked out in the last Knesset with MK Hashem Mahameed (Hadash) - the first Arab MK ever to sit on the Knesset State Control Committee, which also occasionally deals with classified material. Under the deal with Mahameed, most classified items were discussed by a subcommittee on which he did not sit, and he agreed not to come to any session of the full committee which discussed such material. Finance Committee chairman Avraham Ravitz (UTJ) said there had been an explicit agreement, worked out two days ago, that Sa'ad would not come to any of the joint committee meetings on the defense budget. He said he did not know why Sa'ad had changed his mind - though Sa'ad denies that there ever was such an agreement.

Since he did come, however, it was simply decided to move all classified material to a subcommittee. Both Ravitz and Sa'ad said there were no objections or unpleasantness from any of the MKs present. "I didn't see anything wrong with [coming]," Sa'ad said. "We're citizens of Israel, and we have the same right to attend [Knesset] meetings as any other citizen." "Furthermore, there was nothing sensitive on today's agenda [which was devoted to internal changes in the 1996 defense budget]," he continued. "It was all data which has been published." Ravitz explained that the army had already made all the changes in practice, and simply needed retroactive approval from the committee. The committee was therefore willing to vote on the changes without going into the details, which are classified. The subcommittee will be given the details later, Ravitz said. This would have been necessary even had Sa'ad not been present, he added, because the security services have not yet given security clearance to many new MKs. Anyone without a clearance is barred from hearing classified information.

Sa'ad said he was not sure whether he would try to come to a meeting at which sensitive material was to be discussed. Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon (Likud), interviewed on Israel Radio, said that if Arabs did begin attending meetings that discuss classified material, the entire system of Knesset supervision of the military would suffer - because the army and security services would simply stop divulging sensitive information at these meetings. "The solution which was found is a reasonable one, but the [general] problem still exists," said Foreign Affairs and Defense Committee chairman Uzi Landau (Likud). "The problem is that people can be elected to the Knesset who owe no loyalty to Israel as a Jewish and Zionist state." Sa'ad is the first Arab ever to sit on the Finance Committee, which is why this issue never arose before. According to Knesset rules, parties are allotted one seat on this committee for every seven MKs, and the Arabs never before had enough MKs to qualify. This year, however, Hadash and the Democratic Arab Party together formed a bloc and demanded one seat for the two of them.



Palestinian workers pour concrete on the roof of an apartment building in Kiryat Sefer yesterday. The government announced it had lifted a construction freeze in the haredi settlement and plans to build another 1,806 homes there. (Razzer)

Mordechai to allow planning of more homes in Greater Jerusalem area

EVELYN GORDON

DEFENSE Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has agreed to let the settlement movement plan some 2,000 new homes in Givat Ze'ev and Ma'aleh Adumim, but it could be as much as three years before building begins. The Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza said it was very disappointed with the modest scope of the decision, however. "On a scale of our expectations, from 1 to 100, that reaches about 3," said council spokesman Yechiel

Leiter. "It's more than we had four months ago, but it's very far from our expectations." Leiter said there were two reasons for the council's disappointment. First, he said, this okay is only for the greater Jerusalem region - an area where even the Rabin government built almost 4,000 homes. The council wants to see building in the heart of the territories as well. Secondly, he said, Mordechai

only gave permission to plan. There is as yet no guarantee that this will be followed by permission to build - and even if it is, under current rules it takes about three years from the time one starts to plan a project until one can actually start building. "We thought the government would move at the same pace to reinstate building in Judea and Samaria as the previous government moved to halt it," Leiter said. "So far, however, it's nowhere near

that pace." As another example of the slow pace of progress, Leiter cited the government's decision to allow 2,500 existing empty apartments in the territories to be sold. While this is a positive step, he said, the government has still not priced the units - so in practice, it is impossible to begin selling them. Leiter said Mordechai's recent decision permits the planning of some 850 units in Givat Ze'ev and 1,200-1,500 units, plus a hotel, in Ma'aleh Adumim.

Arafat's concessions seen as only bringing humiliation

COMMENT

JON IMMANUEL

YASSER Arafat's call for mass protest is an important indication that the Palestinians are losing faith in negotiations as the sole means of advancing the peace process. First international diplomacy was considered as a tactic to pressure Israel, and now civil protest is being tried. The next step would be violent protest, although Arafat's speech was not violent. In fact, his call for a march on Jerusalem was punctuated by laughter, as he was forced to find a way to include Christians in his call for everyone to pray tomorrow at Al-Aksa mosque. At the core of Arafat's problem is a feeling that he is being slighted by the Netanyahu government on purpose. His closest contact is Foreign Minister David Levy who knows all about being slighted. Afractions to Arafat, however, are taken as national insults. An they have been accompanied by Israeli actions that Arafat believes were taken partly because he did not stand up for his own dignity. The most notable example is the destruction of a Palestinian club for the disabled in the Old City of Jerusalem on Tuesday, almost immediately following Arafat's decision to close down two of three offices in Jerusalem that the government insisted represented the Palestinian Authority. Arafat conceded what he had refused the Rabin-Peres government, and the result was humiliation. In his speech yesterday, Arafat said "We opened the

door and they brought in a donkey." An Arabic proverb meaning "give them an inch and they take a mile." Arafat implied that concessions which he thought he made to advance peace, only served to signal the government that its get-tough policy works better than appeasement. "On one hand the government acts like it doesn't have its act together when it comes to the peace process, but they are united when it comes to expansion of settlements and demolition of houses," the PA's new chief negotiator Saeb Erekat said, at a demonstration on behalf of 50 Beduin families yesterday. Arafat referred to the plight of the Jahalin Beduin encamped near Ma'aleh Adumim, the one settlement that most Palestinian officials long ago quietly accepted would be annexed to Israel. The transfer of the Beduin to a site a kilometer or two away has become a larger issue mainly because it has gotten mixed up with settlement expansion in general. The Jahalin are thus seen as symbols of the indigenous Palestinian confronting the Israeli bulldozer. Arafat's call for a general strike and mass prayers falls far below what many other Palestinian officials would like to see. A resolution recommending the suspension of talks was passed yesterday afternoon, the first time that a majority of the 88 members of the Palestinian Council expressed a readiness to ditch the Oslo process.

UNIFIL soldier hurt by SLA mortar fire

DAVID RUDGE

A FINNISH UNIFIL soldier was lightly wounded when two mortar rounds fired by South Lebanese Army troops hit a UN post near Alman in the central sector of the security zone yesterday. UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel said the explosions blew out the windows in the observation post, wounding the soldier in the face. "The soldier was evacuated in an armored ambulance and taken to the Finnish battalion headquarters, where he was treated for his wounds. He was very lucky because it was safety glass and he did not require treatment in hospital," said Goksel. The incident happened after gunmen fired an anti-tank missile at an SLA armored vehicle not far from the SLA's Alman outpost. There were no casualties in the attack, for which the Amal Shi'ite

movement later claimed responsibility. Sources in the security zone said SLA gunners returned fire, resulting in the hit on the UN post. The incident is being investigated by the SLA and the IDF, after UNIFIL lodged a complaint about the shooting with the IDF's Foreign Forces Liaison Unit. Goksel noted that the IDF had responded by offering medical or other necessary assistance, but none was required. He stressed, however, that there was no justification for the SLA to fire at a clearly marked UN position "which is less than one kilometer from the SLA's Alman position and which pre-dates the SLA post by several years." "The original fire did not originate from anywhere near the UN observation post, but after the explosion the SLA started firing in all directions," he added.

Daniella Weiss wins Kedumim council elections

EVELYN GORDON

FORMER Gush Emunim leader Daniella Weiss was elected the new head of the Kedumim Local Council yesterday. Weiss received 58 percent of the vote in a field of four candidates and her slate won four of the council's seven seats. The victory also makes her the first woman to gain a seat on the Council of Jewish Communities in Judea, Samaria and Gaza. Weiss, a longtime settlement activist who served as secretary-general of Gush Emunim in the 1980s, has been less visible over the past few years, having alienated many in the settlement movement by her decision to run on Rabbi Moshe Levinger's list in the 1992 Knesset elections. For Kedumim voters, however, her controversial past was less important than her ability to get things done. "She never stops," said Linda Hazony, a long-time Kedumim resident and Weiss supporter. "She once told me God gave her an

excessive amount of energy and she has to use it for good - and she does." Hazony reeled off a list of Weiss's accomplishments, from helping settlements in Judea and Samaria get badly needed caravans to putting together plans and getting the necessary approvals for a joint secular-religious study program in Kedumim. "The first thing I want to do is to see what the development plans are [for Kedumim] and how we can cope with the difficulties caused by Labor's decrees," Weiss said in an interview with Israel Radio. Weiss added that she would like to double the settlement's population and improve its quality of life. However, she stressed that Kedumim will not be her only concern. Strengthening the Jewish community in Hebron and opposing an IDF withdrawal from the city are also important to her, she told Arutz 7.

SHOOTING

(Continued from Page 1) to Arafat's statements, but soldiers would be poised to deal with any security problem that may arise. Troops manning roadblocks have been instructed to be particu-

larly diligent in their security checks and to only allow those Palestinians with valid permits to enter the Jerusalem area, security sources said. "We will be watching closely over the next 24 hours to see how

things develop, and then decide," one police source said. "We have no trouble ordering extra manpower into the city; we just want to wait to see whether it is necessary." Bill Human contributed to this report.

Police release Human Rights Watch activist

News agencies

POLICE yesterday released Bashar Tarabieh, a US resident who is a consultant for the US-based organization Human Rights Watch. Tarabieh, 27, was arrested on August 19 on suspicion that he threatened national security, engaged in pro-Syrian activity and set fire to a police station in his native Golan Heights. Police told the Acre District Court that Tarabieh was suspected of having set fire to a police station in the Golan village of Mas'ada last month and of torching a municipal building in his home village of Majdal Shams three years ago. They also said he was suspected of "nationalistic activities," apparently meaning actions on behalf of Syria. Tarabieh has denied the allegations. Human Rights Watch has said Tarabieh was mostly questioned by police about his human rights work and that he was mis-

treated in detention. Both Human Rights Watch and Tarabieh's lawyer, Leah Tzmel, have said he was tied up in painful positions, had a dirty sack placed over his head, and was denied meals and clean clothing. The court ruled Monday that police had two more days to complete their investigation. The judge ordered Tarabieh released from jail and said he should spend the two days under house arrest in an area hotel room. Tarabieh was told yesterday he was free to go, Tarabieh's brother, Mohammed, said, adding, "They didn't find anything against him." Police spokesman Benny Eliezer confirmed that the case was closed. Tzmel has said her client wanted to return to the US after his release. Tarabieh, a Druze, is a third-year sociology student at Temple University in Philadelphia and is married to a US citizen.

ARAFAT

(Continued from Page 1)

settlement, deterioration and escalation to violence are inevitable." MK Yossi Beilin said, adding that the government must "wake up now and keep its part in the agreement with the Palestinians, the part it has not honored." "It saddens me deeply that the government of Israel is simply not keeping an international agreement to which it is bound and has committed itself," Beilin continued. "The situation is extremely grave. We are deliberately ignoring the agreement. On September 7 the additional redeployment in Hebron is due, and nobody is even talking about it." "The government is concentrating on demolishing homes and closing down clubs in Jerusalem and other places, thinking that this kind of thing will bring it glory," Beilin said. Meretz Chairman MK Yossi Sarid urged Arafat not to hasten to "turn over the table of the delicate relationship between Israel and

the Palestinians. Patience and restraint are of the essence now, of all times, in the hope that the government will realize the gravity of the situation and start conducting a balanced and reasonable policy." Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai also called on Arafat to tone down his statements. "If the reports are true about the statements the media has quoted Palestinian Authority Chairman Yasser Arafat as saying, I want to tell the chairman of the Palestinian Authority that we intend to continue the dialogue between us and the PA and seek ways for a solution in the future." "I don't advise intensifying statements or the situation, but to take a moderate approach and find better ways for progress to the benefit of all sides," Mordechai said during a visit in the North, where he observed an IDF battalion commanders' course. Arieh O'Sullivan contributed to this report.

With deep sorrow we announce the passing of **EUNICE KATZ** 77, wife of Rabbi Nehemia Katz 77, Rabbi of Toledo, Ohio. The aron will arrive today, Thursday, August 29 (14 Elul), on TWA flight 884 at 3:30 p.m. The funeral is scheduled for 5:30 p.m. at the Sanhedria Funeral Parlor, leaving for Har Hamenuhot. For more information, call 02-960443, 322373. Families Katz and Elezary

With great sorrow we announce the passing of **MIRIAM BERMAN** Shiva at 18 Rehov Hamagdal, Beit Hakerem, Jerusalem (Tel. 02-6536453) Children: Yitzhak and Bryna Berman, Toby and Moshe Winter, Eli and Janet Berman, Sharon and Moshe Benzioni. Sister: Bertha Ehrenfeld

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הכנה מן האל



Education Minister Zevulun Hammer displays a new Hebrew version of Theodor Herzl's 'Der Judenstaat,' published by Haya (left) and Duda Harel. The book, now celebrating its 100th anniversary, will be a part of the school curriculum for the first time this year.

Schools expected to open on time

Labor court settles wage dispute, averts strike

THE threat of a strike in the country's secondary schools was averted yesterday when a labor court ruled that the Treasury should not deduct 13 percent from the teachers' wages.

The decision was announced as the Knesset Education Committee convened to hear from Education Minister Zevulun Hammer about the various outstanding disputes that were threatening the start of the new school year.

"I think we can safely say that the school year will open on Sunday," Hammer told the committee, after learning that the teachers would hold intensive discussions with the Treasury in the next three weeks about the issue of wage erosion.

Hammer said that the issues of school guards and school health services were also being resolved. The local councils would arrange to have a guard posted at every school, and the health services fee would be phased out over three

BATSHEVA TSUR

years, he said. Meanwhile, police and school guards have held special training exercises for the opening of the school year and security equipment in schools has been checked, the police spokesman said.

About one-tenth of the country's annual budget, some NIS 19 billion, will go towards education this year, Hammer said. He said there would be a 4.3% increase in the number of pupils nationwide, bringing the total to some 1,470,000. At the same time, the number of teachers would be increased by 8.5% and the teaching hours would be increased by 9.6%. The majority of the teachers, 60%, have academic degrees, he said.

Hammer said that NIS 250 million would be earmarked for a new scientific and technological program to be introduced into the schools. Another NIS 60m. would be allocated for computer

studies, he said. Among other improvements in the curriculum, he noted, will be the extension of compulsory study of either Arabic or French through tenth grade. Special emphasis will be put on the study of values, including good manners and volunteerism, and on religious and cultural heritage and Zionism in the Jewish sector.

Hammer said that there is no plan to increase the number of compulsory matriculation exams, which had been reduced by the previous government. But he said a different formula would be worked out to replace the current lottery, to make sure that there was a better balance between the subjects which are dropped.

Despite Hammer's optimistic forecast on the opening of the school year, teachers at several WIZO schools and the College of Administration are still threatening to strike over a dispute over pension rights. The would affect some 50,000 pupils.

Twice-rejected lawyer named Health Ministry legal adviser

A HEALTH Ministry lawyer has been chosen by internal tender to be the ministry's legal adviser, even though she was turned down for the job twice by two previous tender committees.

Miri Huebner, who has worked in the ministry for some 15 years, was the sole candidate for the post. Health Minister Tzahi Hanegbi is said to have wanted someone who currently works for the Environment Ministry, but civil service regulations required an internal tender among Health Ministry employees to be conducted first.

"We want to make the legal adviser's office a serious department," Health Ministry spokesman Efrat Lahav said.

Huebner was chosen a few days ago, but the ministry did not announce the appointment.

JUDY SIEGEL

Lahav said Huebner "is on a six-month trial period, as are all civil servants who take on such a position. We will judge her according to her performance."

He declined to comment on whether Hanegbi wanted a different lawyer for the job.

The post has been vacant since last year, when Carmel Shalev was forced to resign by director-general Dr. Meir Oren, who is leaving the ministry this week. Shalev was regarded as too independent in her views, and is now working for the Association for Civil Rights in Israel.

Vered Livne, of the Civil Service Administration, said the tender committee that chose Huebner "was of very high caliber." The four members were a legal adviser from another

ministry, the director of a Health Ministry-owned hospital, a representative of the Attorney-General's Office, and a representative of the Bar Association.

Asked how a candidate could be chosen after twice being turned down for the same post, Livne said: "Maybe the previous tender boards made a mistake in not selecting her, or maybe they preferred others who competed against her, but the latest panel thought her qualified."

Ministers may name their own director-general and spokesman, but not their legal adviser, as "this position is not a political appointment filled on the basis of the minister being personally acquainted with the person, but filled by a professional civil servant. Thus the ministry has a say on the tender board, but may not decide alone," Livne said.

Doctors offer advice for new school year

JUDY SIEGEL

THERE is no reason to buy children expensive knapsacks with "orthopedic" backs for school, as clinical studies have failed to prove that carrying either heavy or cheap schoolbags can cause scoliosis. So says Dr. Kalman Katz, a senior pediatric orthopedist at the Schneider Children's Medical Center for Israel in Petah Tikva.

Katz said that numerous studies around the world have been conducted to find out whether carrying a heavy schoolbag on one shoulder or a briefcase in one hand causes idiopathic scoliosis - a sideways curve of the spine that results in an "S"-shaped back. Congenital scoliosis, which appears at birth, is found rarely in children, but doctors have been unable to determine what causes the idiopathic kind that often affects youngsters. Many people believe that heavy schoolbags are responsible, and in fact, the Education Ministry has set a rarely enforced regulation barring schoolchildren from carrying schoolbags heavier than a tenth of

their weight. School nurses examine second or third grade pupils for scoliosis. Meanwhile, Dr. Yisrael Rosenbaum of Kupat Holim Chlil's Tel Aviv district issued a reminder to parents to check their children's vaccination booklets to

make sure that they have received all necessary shots. He stressed the importance of getting Hepatitis B shots, which have been given to infants at family health centers for the last few years but were "missed" by older children, unless their parents had them vaccinated privately.

Peled calls for pupils to take field trips to Hebron

News agencies

DEPUTY Education Minister Moshe Peled (Tzomet) said yesterday he wanted thousands of schoolchildren to go on field trips this year to the Machpelah Cave in Hebron.

Peled also said Israel should tailor any plan for IDF redeployment in Hebron to ensure the youngsters were well protected when they visited the site.

"I know there are hundreds of schools that have wanted to visit but were not permitted to do so for security reasons," Peled told Army Radio, and called on the military authorities to review rules banning field trips to Hebron.

"The order stems from the days of the intifada," he said. "Then it was dangerous to walk around Hebron."

Peled said the field trips would not be compulsory.

Efforts to recover bodies from 'Mineral Dampier' resume

DAVID RUDGE

EFFORTS to recover the remaining bodies of Israeli seamen from the wreck of the *Mineral Dampier* in the East China Sea resumed yesterday. The operation has so far cost NIS 24 million.

The bodies of five of the nine Israelis, as well as six other members of the 27-man crew, have already been recovered from the sunken ship.

The Liberian-registered ship sank last June after it was struck in thick fog by a South Korean freighter. The 177,770-ton vessel was carrying iron ore from Brazil to South Korea.

The wreck has been lying on the sea bed, about 80 meters below the surface. The bodies of two of the Israeli crew members were found shortly after the sinking.

The Transport Ministry is funding recovery operations and the investigation into the cause of the disaster. The work is being conducted by the Oceana underwater salvage firm, which yesterday began its 11th diving operation at the scene of the wreck. Arie Rona, director of the

Transport Ministry's Shipping and Ports Administration, said recovery operations have been hampered by difficult conditions.

"There have been typhoons and bad weather conditions generally, both in summer and winter, which have made the task of the divers very difficult," he said. "The conditions under water can also be bad, especially when the currents make the water very murky, and the divers have to use a diving bell to enable them to

stay down at such a depth for a long time. This is known as saturation diving.

"By now there will also be a lot of vegetation on the ship, as well as the problems of moving around inside wreck itself, which will make the work of the divers even more problematic. Nevertheless, we hope the operations will be successful."

The Transport Ministry, following repeated pleas from the families of the missing seamen, recently made another NIS 4.5 million available to enable the operation to continue.

Tourism industry expects recovery by year's end

HAIM SHAPIRO

DESPITE the present slump in the number of incoming tourists, the Hotel Association believes there will be a recovery by the end of the year.

Hotel Association director Avi Rosental said yesterday that a survey showed that the total number of tourists for 1996 would be about equal to the number in 1994, and only slightly lower than in 1995.

The statistics for incoming tourism had looked very promising during the first months of 1996, only to drop sharply in March following the suicide bus bombings. Even now, the number of bed-nights for foreign tourists from January through July is virtually identical to that for the same period last year, mainly because the figures for the beginning of the year were so good.

In July, however, there were 553,000 bed-nights by foreign tourists, 23 percent less than July 1995. The hardest hit areas were Jerusalem, which had 32% fewer foreign tourists, the kibbutzim, which saw a drop of 24%, and Tiberias, where the drop was 22%. In Jerusalem, average occupancy in July was only 56%, 21% less than in July 1995.

On the other hand, there were impressive increases in the number of local tourists. In July, there were 983,000 bed-nights by Israelis, an increase of 11% over the same month last year. In Eilat, there were 432,000 bed-nights by domestic tourists, or an increase of 15%. Average occupancy in July was 83%, or 1% less than last year.

Rosental stressed that despite the decline, there has been an impressive entry here recently by foreign hotel chains, including Days Inn, Sheraton, Hilton, and Hyatt, all of whom apparently have faith in Israel as a tourist destination.

Migrating birds herald the end of summer

DAVID RUDGE

TENS of thousands of migrating birds have already flown across the country en route from Eastern Europe to their winter quarters in Africa, and over a million more are expected in the coming weeks.

The annual end-of-summer migration is expected to reach a peak before Rosh Hashana.

The Society for the Protection of Nature in Israel (SPNI) is making its seasonal survey with the aid of ornithologists from abroad and hundreds of local volunteers. SPNI is relaying the information collected about the size of the flocks and their movements to the IAF and the civilian airport authorities to help avoid collisions between birds and planes.

Updated details of the survey will also be carried on the Internet. This will enable schoolchildren, in a joint Education Ministry and SPNI project, to monitor the

migrations on computers in schools.

Dan Alon, director of the SPNI's ornithological center, said more than 70,000 white storks have passed over since the beginning of the week. He said about 400,000 are expected to fly over by Rosh Hashana, as well as hundreds of thousands of honey buzzards, Levant sparrow hawks, lesser spotted eagles, pelicans, and other birds of prey.

Altogether, about 30 different species of birds of prey are expected to be seen here during their seasonal migration.

The SPNI survey, based from ornithological observation points in the Beit She'an and Jezreel valleys, will continue until the middle of October. Anyone interested in observing the migrations or monitoring the details on Internet should contact the SPNI.

Teachers learn about the Internet - from their pupils

JUDY SIEGEL

A GROUP of Herzliya teachers who wanted help in understanding the Internet turned to their pupils for assistance.

Teenagers at ORT's Yad Giora Comprehensive High School recently held a workshop for their teachers on the mysteries of the computer network.

"It was great fun to learn from my pupils," said one teacher. "If there are subjects in which the pupils know more than the teachers, one should not be bashful, but learn from them, just as they learn from us in other subjects."

The pupils, who were pleased by the teachers' initiative, made connections via the Internet to a group of peers in the North. This let them demonstrate to their teacher-pupils how to hold electronic conference calls, send e-mail, and link up with the World Wide Web. The lessons were transmitted over ORT-Net, the computer telecommunications network that links ORT high schools and colleges here and abroad.

ORT director-general Yisrael Guralnik was very pleased with the experiment.

"For some time, many teachers

and principals have felt that in the fields of computers, technology, and communications, many pupils

know more than their teachers. This shouldn't embarrass anyone. It can even be very educational for teachers to learn from their pupils," he said.

SAFE D

Join us, and discover its secrets

This unique, small mountain-top town was the center of Jewish mysticism and Kabbala. For centuries the home of rabbis and sages, and recently of artists, it continues to attract visitors from around the world.

This two-day, English speaking tour, programmed by Shorashim and The Jerusalem Post Travel Club together with local mavin Ya'akov Kaznachar, will explore the synagogues, streets and alleys by day and night. We'll also visit Mt. Meron of Rabbi Simeon ben Yohai fame and its second century synagogue. While in the area we'll tour the famous Jordan Park, the Dobrovin House, Meron - the highest forested nature reserve in the country, and the reconstituted Hula Lake, with its large variety of birds, animals, fish and plants.

The dates: Wednesday - Thursday, Sept. 25-26.

Tour guide: Yoni Shapiro
The Price: NIS 575, includes transportation from Jerusalem or Tel Aviv and return, entrance to all sites, background lectures and on-the-spot explanations, accommodation in a double room at the Tel Aviv Hotel, Safed, dinner on the first day and breakfast and lunch on the second. Pick-up and drop-off along the route when possible and arranged beforehand.

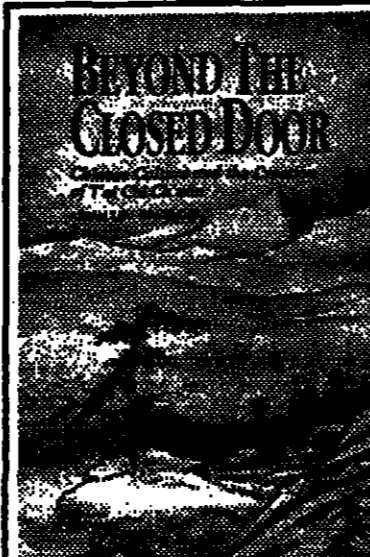
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NEWS IN BRIEF

German defense minister to visit
German Defense Minister Volker Ruge is to pay an official two-day visit here beginning September 2, making him the first defense minister to call since the Likud-led government assumed power. He will be received by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and an official honor guard at the Defense Ministry in Tel Aviv on Monday. He will also tour an air force base in the Negev and the naval base in Eilat, where he will spend a night. *Arieh O'Sullivan*

Greek Orthodox mark Ascension Day
Despite the closure of the West Bank, thousands of Greek Orthodox faithful, mainly from Bethlehem, were allowed to attend yesterday's Ascension Day ceremonies at the Tomb of the Virgin in Jerusalem's Gethsemane. The worshippers, who arrived on foot in accordance with tradition, began leaving their homes for the shrine at about 2 a.m. Tuesday morning. *Haim Shapiro*

High school study tour to Eastern Europe
Some 2,500 high school pupils are to leave next week for a week-long study tour of concentration camp sites and other sites of Jewish significance in Poland and the Czech Republic. The 11th and 12th graders, from both secular and religious schools, will be accompanied by Holocaust survivors. *Batsheva Tsur*



BEYOND THE CLOSED DOOR

Chinese Culture and the Creation of Tai Chi Ch'uan
Tai Chi is a child of Chinese culture, reflecting and illuminating the root ideas of its heritage. Arieh Lev Breslow weaves a colorful tapestry of myth, stories, philosophy, history and his own experience as a teacher of Tai Chi, to give the reader a profound insight into the culture from which it came, helping to understand the origins and practice of Tai Chi. "Reading this book will certainly take more time than a meal in a Chinese restaurant, and the reward is likely to be greater" - Michael Widlanski, The Jerusalem Post.
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Yeltsin 'on vacation but in control'

RUSSIAN President Boris Yeltsin, who has been on vacation since Monday, is taking decisions in key matters of foreign and domestic policy, spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky told a news briefing yesterday.

"Even on holiday, Boris Nikolayevich (Yeltsin) remains an active president. There should be no doubt that decisions on key issues of internal and foreign policy are being taken by him," Yastrzhembsky said.

But Yastrzhembsky dodged a question about whether he had met the president in person since he left for his vacation, saying only that Yeltsin had spoken twice to German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, once on August 26 and once on August 28.

"These were long enough, substantial, constructive conversations," he said.

He said Yeltsin was studying documents presented by his security chief Alexander Lebed on how to resolve the conflict in breakaway Chechnya and planned to make his orders on Lebed's

News agencies MOSCOW

responsibilities more concrete.

In Grozny, columns of Russian men and equipment trundled out of the shattered Chechen capital yesterday as Russian and Chechen commanders sat down for more talks on implementing the ceasefire deal.

Grozny, returning to a semblance of normality after some of the bloodiest fighting for more than a year, was quiet as detachments of troops, their trucks and armored personnel carriers belching black smoke, rolled out of the city.

At least one column was bound for the Russian military base at Severny airport, a few km from the centre of Grozny. Jubilant soldiers in a second column cheered as they drove past.

"We are going home, back to Russia," one soldier said.

But Yastrzhembsky added: "To our great regret the Chechen problem is not one which can be

resolved in one hour. The president has needed additional expert advice."

He had no information about whether any meetings were planned between Yeltsin and Lebed, who returned to Moscow at the weekend saying he wanted Yeltsin's approval for his peace plan.

As the troops left Grozny, Russian commander Vyacheslav Tikomirov and rebel chief-of-staff Aslan Maskhadov sat down for more talks on implementing the ceasefire in the rebel-held village of Novye Atagi, some 20 km from the capital.

The two men made no comment as they went in for the new round of discussions, reporters said.

Yeltsin, 65, has been seen rarely in public since his reelection in July, prompting widespread speculation about his health.

The Kremlin, which has repeatedly denied rumors that Yeltsin is ill, said he had started a holiday on Monday in the private Rus hunting lodge, some 100 km from Moscow.



Prince Charles and Princess Diana kiss on the balcony of Buckingham Palace on their wedding day July 29, 1981. The marriage ended yesterday when a legal clerk issued a decree that their divorce was now absolute.

Britain's royal divorce finalized

PRINCE Charles was granted a final decree of divorce yesterday from Princess Diana, cutting her loose to fill an unprecedented role as the ex-wife of a future king.

The 15-year marriage ended at 10:27 a.m. when a legal clerk issued a decree that their divorce was now "absolute," Buckingham Palace said.

Neither Charles nor Diana appeared in court. The princess was at her apartment in Kensington Palace. The prince was secluded at Balmoral Castle in Scotland with their sons, Prince William, 14, and Prince Harry, 11.

"I think everyone is very

SUE LEEMAN LONDON

sad at the end of the marriage," Prime Minister John Major told reporters. "It has ended. People think that was the right thing to happen. I see no prospect of a remarriage (for Charles) at this stage."

The prince filed a written application for the decree absolute and the standard £20 fee (NIS 102) was paid on his behalf. Charles had applied for the divorce, with Diana's consent since they had been legally separated for more than two years.

Robin West, chief clerk to the Family Division of the High Court, received the application at his office

made absolute."

The palace and a spokeswoman for the princess said no statements would be issued.

The newly styled Diana, Princess of Wales, will be rich, beautiful, independent - but effectively jobless. There has never been an ex-wife of a Prince of Wales, the title taken by all men who are next in line to the throne.

Buckingham Palace has promised to invite her to the odd state or national event.

There will be a dinner here, a ball there for the few charities she still represents, and outings with her sons. But the dizzying

whirl of public royal duties is gone, and there are only so many glitzy restaurants and aerobic classes to go to.

So what will she do? Since her declaration in a television interview last year that she aspired to being "a queen in people's hearts," Diana has said little about her plans.

Dame Barbara Cartland, the romantic novelist whose daughter Raine was Diana's step-mother, says Diana wants to "travel abroad to highlight children's issues."

"But the queen is being very difficult about it. She has said no." Therein lies the rub. (AP)

Democrats rally to defense of Hillary at party convention

CHICAGO (Reuters) - The Democratic Party rallied to Hillary Rodham Clinton's defense with thundering cheers as she delivered a speech carefully crafted to persuade Americans to take a second look at the most criticized woman in US politics.

More than 20,000 Democrats waved a sea of "Welcome Home Hillary" placards as she walked onto the podium to address the national convention and deliver a simple speech on her husband's efforts to preserve and strengthen the American family.

For several minutes she was unable to talk above a deafening roar of approval from a crowd bent on countering four years of attacks on her by Republicans and their allies who have branded her cold, aloof, domineering and radical.

She talked of her husband's help,

his plans, his programs. Gone was the past use of "we" in describing administration policy. Instead she spoke of Bill's concern for families.

"The President hasn't forgotten that there are thousands of children languishing in foster care who can't be returned home. That's why he signed legislation that provides for a \$5,000 tax cut. My husband also understands that parents are their children's first teachers. He has always felt that all American families should have affordable health care."

She also turned a defense of her book, *It Takes A Village*, which Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole attacked at his party's convention, into a plea for her husband's re-election.

"For Bill and me, there has been no experience more challenging, more rewarding and more hum-

bling than raising our daughter. And we have learned that to raise a happy, healthy and hopeful child. It takes a family...It takes all of us," she said.

Then she added to cheers: "Yes, it takes a village. And it takes a president. It takes Bill Clinton."

She was asked afterwards about the continual attacks on her.

She said, "There are so many of them (attacks). They come from all directions. I view it as partisan, politically motivated."

Before she spoke at the convention, several speakers came to her defense, most notably civil rights leader Jesse Jackson.

He had the crowd on its feet when he said: "We must maintain with integrity the first lines of defense as they attack the integrity of the First Lady. It's beneath the dignity of American citizens."

Bosnian refugees urged to boycott vote

SARAJEVO (Reuters) - Bosnian elections took a potentially ominous turn yesterday when three political parties urged refugees living abroad not to cast ballots until voter registration irregularities are resolved.

The international organization supervising elections "strongly disagreed" with the boycott call and some diplomats dismissed it as political posturing by Muslim politicians.

About 640,000 Bosnian refugees are registered to vote in 55 countries around the world during the week, which began yesterday.

Election day in Bosnia is September 14.

The Bosnian elections are being run by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE).

Yesterday's call to boycott the

elections was led by the ruling Muslim nationalist Party of Democratic Action (SDA), headed by Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic.

An SDA party statement said it was calling for a boycott because of a lack of clarity in an OSCE decision postponing municipal elections because of numerous problems, including registration irregularities.

However, elections for cantonal assemblies, separate Muslim-Croat and Serb parliaments, a national House of Representatives and a collective Presidency were not affected by that OSCE decision.

SDA said it needed more time to consult with the other parties competing in the elections.

"We disagree strongly that any party should opt out of the democratic process," OSCE spokeswoman Agotia Kuperman said of the boycott suggestion.

"We have addressed the registration concerns by postponing the municipal elections."

SDA was joined in its position by the Party for BH, headed by Bosnia's popular war-time prime minister Haris Silajdzic, and by a third party headed by former Bosnian army commander Sefer Halilovic.

US Congress: Child sex abuse is slavery

STOCKHOLM (AP) - Sexually abusing children for profit is a form of slavery that requires international cooperation to stop, according to delegates to an international conference on child exploitation.

A draft agenda to be adopted last night urged governments to adopt strong criminal sanctions for a range of child-sex crimes, including hiring child prostitutes.

"The commercial exploitation of children is an atrocity," said Peter Piot, head of the United Nations AIDS agency.

"It denies children their fundamental human rights... and it has devastating psychological consequences for them."

Delegates from more than 120 countries were participating in the five-day conference organized by the Swedish government on the bodies of girls allegedly killed by a child pornography ring in Belgium added urgency to the effort.

Addressing the conference, Piot warned that children who are forced into prostitution stand a high risk of being infected with HIV, the AIDS virus. He demanded tough laws against child sexual exploitation.

"Punishing adults who break the law will demonstrate that sexual exploitation of children is a seri-

ous crime, and deter potential exploiters," Piot said.

"Publicizing the existence, severity and application of these laws is crucial to their success."

The conference aimed to jolt world leaders into action against child pornography and prostitution. These are worst in Asia - Thailand, the Philippines and India - and Africa, and has been growing in eastern Europe.

UNICEF estimates a million children a year are forced into prostitution, trafficked for sexual purposes or used to produce pornography.

Many are handed over by their own families, driven by crushing poverty.

Technological advances, including the Internet, have given pornographers a bigger audience.

Conference delegations - 50 of which were headed by cabinet ministers - urged stronger cooperation among governments, non-governmental agencies and international agencies such as Interpol, to prevent children from entering the sex trade. They also urged help for children already involved.

UNICEF executive director Carol Bellamy said a tough challenge lies ahead. "I don't think this will all go away," Ms. Bellamy said.

Organized crime's connection, Page 12

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The 'poor' look is in Burial plot reservations are pricey

JEANS are the most ubiquitous symbol of an egalitarian society. But given their origins, it is hardly surprising that Renzo Rosso, founder of Diesel Jeans and Workwear, used them as the base for his reverse fashion psychology — to appeal to yuppies who want to conceal their affluence.

Nothing could after all be more appropriate. Jeans first surfaced on the California gold fields where poor men became millionaires overnight, but continued to wear those same sturdy strides.

Diesel quietly chugged into the Israeli fashion terrain some three years ago via piecemeal imports, is now here with a bang and locally headquartered at south Tel Aviv's Panorama House.

One of the first apparel companies to unveil its fall/winter collection locally, Diesel obviously did some savvy marketing in advance of the big day. There is certainly no other explanation for the fact that most of the 20-something audience which turned up to the groin-grinding Diesel show were clad in Diesel duds.

Forget about a fast-paced walk down the runway, or an elegant pirouette. This was a hot dance routine, sizzling with sex — if not exactly sex appeal. Bodies gyrated in all directions, with the male models literally rapping the air and coming perilously close to do

FLAIR
GREER FAY CASHMAN

doing the same to the female models. Whether this was to demonstrate the flexibility of the cloth and the strength of the stitch or whether it was just another sign of national degeneracy remains debatable; but taking into account that the show also featured a drag-queen resplendent in glitzy, multi-hued sequined gown, gaudy make-up and a bush of underarm hair, I would personally opt for the latter.

As for the clothes themselves, they were as mixed a medley as anyone could want, in screaming, bright, energetic colors, melanges and quiet neutrals.

There were basic, traditional blue denim jeans teamed with both tight and loose fitting, flap-pocketed and stud-fastened denim workshirts. But there were also velvet and corduroy pants — the latter in wide and narrow welts.

Anyone who hasn't seen a wide-welved, vivid violet corduroy pants suit hasn't seen anything. Other brights included chartreuse, apple green, mango and post office red. The rainbow would have bowed its head in shame.

And of course there was very little in the way of harmony. There was a deliberate attempt to emulate the "anything goes" dress code that passes for style in the

slums — clashing hues and prints and torso revealing shapes. Ribbed sweaters and zip-fronted cardigans and vests clung like second skins and frequently exposed wide expanses of flesh at waist level. There were also poodle and chenille knits; mini, midi and maxi length skirts and dresses, garishly toned single and double breasted coats and multi-colored stripes of the kind that are usually seen in the lowest of low income communities.

Was there anything attractive? In the eyes of most of the beholders, the answer was obviously yes, though many of the items would have looked a lot more appealing on street urchins than on grown-up imitators of street urchins.

But what the hell, you can't beat a trend. You can either join it or stand on the periphery of the crowd — where these days, being conservative will make you conspicuous. If we have to look impoverished next season, so be it, so long as our bank accounts remain reasonably intact. The poor person's wardrobe is priced at NIS 249 to NIS 349 for jeans; NIS 249 to NIS 319 for corduroy pants; NIS 250 to NIS 400 for women's pants, NIS 400 to NIS 700 for jackets, NIS 600 to NIS 1,000 for coats and NIS 2,000 for leather coats.

If that seems a lot, the conservative estimates will be higher.

BURIAL is a subject most of us would rather not categorize as a consumer issue. But for those of you who have had the misfortune to deal with funeral arrangements for a loved one, or find yourself faced with this task in the future, familiarity with the ins and outs of the subject can be invaluable.

When his father-in-law died, T.B. took care of the burial arrangements, so as to spare his grieving wife and mother-in-law from the mundane aspects of death. The services rendered by Hevra Kadisha for the funeral and burial were covered by the National Insurance Institute (NII). The Givat Shaul plot, too, was part of the package.

However, when the family arrived at the grave site, T.B. noticed that it lay beside an empty plot. Looking around the cemetery, he saw that many plots came in "pairs" — one empty and one "occupied."

The grieving widow was approached by a Hevra Kadisha representative with an offer she was in no emotional condition to refuse, or even to ponder: The empty plot beside her late husband could be hers for the asking. All she had to do was reserve it for a fee. "Certainly..." she consented through her tears.

The fee she was charged was NIS 7,000. T.B. considered this outrageous. NII regulations regarding burial expenses are as follows: "The NII pays burial fees for any person who dies in Israel and is buried in Israel, and for any Israeli resident who dies abroad and is buried in Israel. Burial costs are paid directly to Hevra Kadisha or to any other organization legally licensed [to perform this service] which has signed an agreement with the NII."

According to these regulations, Hevra Kadisha (or any of the 600 authorities in Israel licensed to perform burials) cannot charge the family of the deceased for the burial or services related to it.

These services include: "the grave; the cleansing of the body; fabric for regular shrouds; digging of the grave; grave covering; paving stone for the grave; plate with the name of the deceased; cantor; transportation of the body... from the place of death to the funeral home and from there to the cemetery; transportation of the deceased... prior to the date of burial from the place of death to the hospital or funeral home during regular

CAVEAT EMPTORI!
RUTHIE BLUM

working hours." Any other services or special requests from the family of the deceased can and will cost extra. Hevra Kadisha is allowed to charge for any "extras" including the reservation of a plot. The plot itself is funded, in fact, neither by the family, nor by the NII.

According to Hevra Kadisha Secretary Hanania Shahor, the seemingly exorbitant price for reserving a plot next to one's spouse has to do with the high cost of land development for cemeteries, which the government is not willing to finance.

"We filed and lost a High Court petition to get the government to fund cemetery development, so that we could reserve plots for people during their lifetime for free," Shahor also claims that a Religious Affairs Ministry survey determined that the actual cost of a plot is higher than that which Hevra Kadisha charges for "reservation."

One way of keeping the price

down, he says, is by charging foreigners who reserve plots in Israel much higher fees than Israelis. "This way, at least, there is some form of subsidy for Israeli spouses," he explained.

He also pointed out that prices for plots vary, depending on the terrain of the cemetery in question. "Whereas digging a grave in mountainous Jerusalem might cost NIS 7,000, for example, in the coastal region, a similar plot may cost only NIS 5,000."

According to the NII spokesman's office, "Hevra Kadisha finances the purchase [of plots which neither the NII nor the families of the deceased pay for] with money from a variety of sources, or with land received from the Israel Land Administration."

Rabbi Braverman, Director of the Department of Burial Services at the Ministry of Religious Affairs, says that a ministerial committee determines the amount which a burial company can charge for any

services not covered by the NII. If you have a complaint regarding what you consider to be dubious pricing practices in this field, contact the ombudsman's office at the Ministry of Religious Affairs in Jerusalem.

Important note: failure to reserve the plot next to your deceased spouse does not necessarily mean that you won't be buried there when you pass away. If the neighboring plot is available, Hevra Kadisha will bury you there — free of charge.

ON a lighter note: If you pick up your telephone receiver to make a call, and you hear something resembling a slow busy signal, someone may have accidentally pressed the "follow me" code (by dialing 72). To release your phone from this mode, dial 75, then wait for a few seconds. After a the "beeping" stops, hang up.

You are invited to offer personal stories about goods and services in this country. Write to: Ruthie Blum, POB 51, 91000 Jerusalem.

Hockey star aims to restore the Bures watchmaking empire

HOCKEY fans the world over know Pavel Bure as the Russian Rocket, a prolific goal scorer with lightning speed. Now he's trying to cultivate his ancestors' legendary knack for timing off the ice, too. The Vancouver Canucks' star right-winger is reviving his family's 19th-century luxury watch manufacturing business. Recently he presented his first sample to President Boris Yeltsin.

Bure watches are as much a part of Russia's culture as Faberge eggs or Smirnoff vodka. The 24-year-old skater is the great-grandson of Pavel Bure, the last of the famous Bures whose company made precious watches for the Russian czars starting in 1815. The dynasty's founder, Swiss watchmaker Eduard Bure, is said to have been the first to attach a tiny strap to a watch so it could be worn on the hand.

Young Pavel is a vice president of the Twenty-First Century Association, a non-profit company based in his native Moscow which is helping to resurrect his ancestors' business. "Bure has such a strong personality, a sense of history and a self-made fortune made on ice," said Kikalishvili, company president. "It's marvelous that he is investing his hard-earned money into restoring the old Russian trademark." Like his ancestors, Bure plans

to have some watch parts made in Switzerland, then shipped to Moscow and St. Petersburg for assembly. He is now negotiating with the Moscow government about buying one of the formally famous, now-neglected watch factories.

The first 50 gold watches, replicas of the old company's last model, have already been made. "Since the Bure watches were always made for Russia's top leaders, Bure presented the first three to President Boris Yeltsin, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Moscow Mayor Yuri Luzhkov," said Kikalishvili. Members of the Russian royal family always wore Bure watches and used them as awards for service to the crown.

When Russia's last czar, Nicholas II, wanted to present a Bure watch to Fyodor Shalyapin — the famous singer known for his huge ego — Shalyapin refused to accept a watch like those given to other singers. The czar then had to ask for a special watch decorated with diamonds, which Shalyapin accepted and wore the rest of his life.

"If Russia is a great power, it must make fine watches, nice cars and other great and beautiful things," Kikalishvili said. "I don't know about cars, but we can certainly make watches." (AP)



Israel takes its place among the world's top consumer markets

A stroll around the up-market shopping areas of Tel Aviv is a completely different experience today, than it was ten years ago. Gone are the small shops with orange cellophane in the window to protect the merchandise from the sun. Gone are the dark, claustrophobic interiors piled high with boxes. Gone too is the middle aged lady who knew all her customers by name. All these familiar sights have been replaced with elegant, interior designed shops.

These days, when out shopping in Kikar HaMedina or Gan Ha'ir, one could imagine oneself to be anywhere in the world. The most prominent shops have international labels behind them — Donna Karan, Kenzo, Max Mara, Gucci to name but a few. No longer does a Tel Aviv society lady have to rely on Gideon Oberon for that special occasion, she now has the pick of the world at her doorstep.

Stores of the type that are mushrooming here, have names with connotations. Dropped into a conversation they are

associated with luxury, top of the range merchandise. These are not the hangouts of bargain hunters. In some of these stores the numbers on price tags compete with telephone numbers in length. Here, fantasy becomes reality, almost as if walking through the set of a glossy television soap opera. These types of shops are the domain of Melrose Place and crew. Central Park West at its finest.

Designer labels ran riot on clothes, shoes, sunglasses, perfumes and even underwear. If susceptible enough (and rich enough) a designer like Ralph Lauren could have his trademark Polo pony galloping over every aspect of your life including your sheets! Women power dress, men are interested in clothes and the design wagon is rolling. Bubbling economies, strong stockmarkets, and the rapid growth of the media gave birth to the yuppie era of conspicuous consumption. If you've got it, flaunt it and if you haven't, then fake it. Though the decade of the designer hit

TANIA FOGEL

both East and West, Israel, situated somewhere in the middle, appeared to miss out. True, we had our own big labels, such as Gortex and Oberon, but most international names did not touch down as they flew over to the Far East. All this has changed. International brand names and chain stores started to emerge at mass market level, most notably with food products and cars.

Until a few years ago Subaru was the only car imported from the Far East on our roads. Now almost every large car manufacturer is represented here. Retailers, who are household names worldwide, but never seen here before, now appear at every corner. Who would have dreamt that the big yellow "M" of McDonalds would become a landmark over the Golani junction. Longstanding Israeli brands now have competition; Burger Ranch has Burger King and McDonalds, Gali has Keds, Honigman

has Benetton and Stefanel and your local hardware store has Ace.

AN EXCLUSIVE designer label usually lists its branches as being in the major cosmopolitan centres of the world. London, Paris, New York. Many can now list Tel Aviv too. Tiffany's, the jewellers immortalized in the classic Audrey Hepburn film *Breakfast at Tiffany's* opened up here eighteen months ago. Yochai Amiel, one of the owners explained that with the peace process, suddenly Israel was seen as a potential Hong Kong and there were high expectations for the country. "Israelis are sophisticated and travel a lot, they are very exposed to the world and like good things," he said. "Everyone at our head office in New York is surprised how we have exceeded all expectations. We are known as the shining star of the Middle East. We now have plans to expand to

Eilat and Jerusalem."

Yoram Chisin, formerly of Christian Lacroix in Tel Aviv and now the importer of Gucci to Israel agrees: "Our customers are both Israelis and tourists, although the majority are Israeli. There is money here and our prices for the same goods are better than in many places including London. Israelis are fashion conscious and so it makes sense to have the best here."

Many factors can be attributed to the success of the globalization of the Israeli consumer market at luxury level. The peace process and the normalization of relations with some of our neighbors plus the diminished power of the Arab boycott are the obvious ones. However, as a by-product of these and the tremendous economic growth of the country, many multinationals and banks, previously unrepresented here, are opening branches and obviously sending their people here.

There are also many Israelis, who, having worked or studied abroad, have

returned with families and want the same standard of living as they had there. Also, are the tourists, who have an extra incentive. Most shops offer V.A.T. refunds (given back in dollars at the airport) and a 5% discount to holders of foreign passports. It therefore makes sense for them to buy the same products here, especially clothes which are easily packed, if they are cheaper than at home.

Madison Avenue, Rodeo Drive, the Faubourg St.Honore, Bond street. The stores lining these streets were never before associated with our small stretch of Mediterranean coastline. However the winds of change are blowing and the brown leather sandals, kibbutz hats and shorts of yesterday's Israel are being relegated to history. If peace does become a fixture, Israel has the potential to become a major centre and transit point similar to Singapore or Hong Kong. With it will increase the choice of merchandise and shops. What we see today will only be the tip of the iceberg.

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Brace for negotiations

THREE months after his electoral victory, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's initial lack of detailed, coherent and long-term operating plans is exacting an increasingly high price - politically, economically, and now also diplomatically. Politically, Netanyahu has paid dearly for his failure to build close working relations with his own colleagues in advance, leaving him with a series of senior appointments he either didn't want, or could not sustain. Economically, the prime minister was whipped by the bond markets after he failed to deliver the "comprehensive" reform plans he had promised to unveil "imminently," once elected.

Diplomatically, Netanyahu's stalling tactics concerning relations with the Palestinian Authority are beginning to generate the kind of international bickering which, in the past, has accelerated regional tension.

Yasser Arafat will undoubtedly commit a grave mistake if he does not retract his call to the residents of the autonomous areas to flock tomorrow for prayers on the Temple Mount. Such a move might result in the kind of street friction which in the past has done little to promote his cause.

Even more futile is the PA chairman's call for a general strike throughout the West Bank and Gaza. That rusty method failed to achieve its goals even when first introduced during the 1936-39 Arab Revolt against the British mandatory government, and half a century later during the intifada.

The strike during the Arab Revolt merely accelerated the Jewish community's economic activity, since it was compelled to provide itself with goods it had previously obtained from Arab suppliers. During the intifada, the strike also impressed no one outside the Palestinian community, where it inflicted real suffering, for merchants and their customers alike.

Yet all that tactical imprudence notwithstanding, one cannot ignore the strategically legitimate frustrations lurking behind these calls. The real reason for these actions is not the demolition earlier this week of a Palestinian building in Jerusalem, but Netanyahu's ongoing failure to raise Jerusalem's discourse with the PA to the highest level.

Arafat, of course, is not the Likud leader's cup of tea, nor that of most other Israelis. His terrorist record will never be forgotten or forgiven here, nor will his frequent post-Oslo glorifica-

tions of such arch-killers as Hamas terrorist Yihye Ayyash.

But in the new reality created over the past three years, ignoring Arafat, even partially, is a diplomatic non-starter, regardless of one's ultimate goal.

Netanyahu's reluctance to meet with Arafat - whether it stems from an anti-terrorism crusader's psychological difficulty to do so, or from an inexperienced leader's reluctance to cross a political Rubicon - creates a vacuum. And in the Middle East, a vacuum has proven time and again to breed violence.

In planning his next moves, Netanyahu would do well to contemplate the precedents of Golda Meir and Yitzhak Shamir. The former formulated a policy of diplomatic inaction, based on the arrogant notions that no regional circumstances could counter Israel's military might, and that a Palestinian people did not exist. Eventually she realized how wrong she was, but that was only after she - and the entire country - had to suffer the Yom Kippur War.

As for Shamir, his refusal as prime minister in early 1987 to approve a tentative agreement between then-foreign minister Shimon Peres and Jordan's King Hussein was followed by the outbreak of the intifada later that year. Had that agreement been endorsed, the Palestinian uprising might not have occurred.

Both leaders' refusal to grasp opportunities to help reshape regional politics ultimately led to their ouster from office.

Netanyahu's recent behavior smacks heavily of the same short-sighted attitude. To achieve the goals that are dear to him he must deal with the real leadership of the Palestinian people. And to lead the Palestinians into a fruitful dialogue, he must refrain from uselessly - and detrimentally - provoking it into hasty submission to street pressure. No Israeli interest will be served that way.

Naturally, beyond the matter of the level, time, and location of the government's dealings with the PA lies the question of their content. If, as one increasingly suspects, Netanyahu thinks he can get away with confining discourse with that body to the realms of employment, education, transportation, sewage, and other non-contentious issues, Israel is likely to arrive at a potentially explosive situation in which the Likud, too, stands to lose. For everyone's sake, therefore, Netanyahu had better brace for piercing, deliberate and comprehensive negotiations with Arafat.



'Our local quislings'

IT was one of the most glittering receptions ever in Caesarea, surely the equal of any banquet held when Rome ruled the land of the Hebrews from there. The aim was to honor Eiliah Ben-Elissar, the new ambassador to the US. The evening was the brainchild of a rich backer of the previous Labor government.

The guest of honor was Ezer Weizman. As is his wont, the president came over like a wartime Spitfire pilot on the rampage. He predicted a new Israeli government in the not too distant future.

"You mean a national unity government?" he was asked. No, was the firm response. A government run by the Likud and Labor parties primarily. This comment brought a smile to the faces of several guests.

They are acquainted with several Labor and left-wing individuals who are trying to outmaneuver Netanyahu. They aim to topple his government and thus ensure that the Oslo peace accords run their full course. And they want to create a Palestinian state with eastern Jerusalem as its capital.

Their activities include supporting Yasser Arafat, advising and guiding him on how to outfox the legally elected prime minister and destroy his administration. They feed Arafat with inside information about the problems afflicting Netanyahu. They outline strategies they believe will bring him to his knees.

Some of these individuals genuinely believe that Arafat should succeed in his ambitions. Most, however, are still burning with rage over the victory of the national camp and are out to bring Labor back to power.

Their method is to spread disinformation based on a strategy of causing fear among the Jewish population. Pliant journalists are fed "scoops" claiming that unless every last detail of the Oslo accords is fulfilled, the intifada will once more erupt with unheard-of ferocity. War with Syria will be certain.

A skilled public relations exercise aims to whitewash Arafat, presenting him as a man of noble intent, a sort of Mideastern Mother Theresa. He was paraded on Israel TV by naive interviewer Yael Dan, who let the terrorist chief get away with the most outrageous lies.

"I have changed the PLO charter," said Arafat with a straight face. "I have done all I can to stop

URI DAN
DENNIS EISENBERG

terrorism. Sharon tried to have me assassinated 13 times." Where were the obvious questions that even the most junior reporter would have asked: *When? How? What happened?*

We would prefer to believe that Dan is ignorant and not that she is being used as a tool to elevate

A group of Laborites and left-wingers is using Arafat to try and outmaneuver Netanyahu

Arafat to sainthood. Perhaps she doesn't know that the PLO charter hasn't been changed, that Hamas terror bomb-makers roam the streets of Judea, Samaria and Gaza, free as air. And then that smooth story about Ariel Sharon trying to get him "bumped off." It wasn't only Yitzhak Rabin who issued a death warrant against Arafat when Rabin was premier during the 1970s; so did ultra-legalist Menachem Begin when he was prime minister.

Both men acted like Golda Meir who ordered the slaying of those who murdered the Israeli sportsmen at the 1972 Munich Olympics. They had the Mossad documents detailing how Arafat had ordered the deaths of Israeli men, women and children.

He was a murderer of Jews then, and he remains a murderer. His victims still cry out for justice.

That the Mossad failed to follow orders and didn't eliminate the PLO leader is a major intelligence scandal hidden under the carpet until this very day.

The alleged "13 assassination" attempts on Arafat are a patent fabrication. The US forced Israel to promise that Arafat would be executed while he withdrew his gangs from Beirut and set sail for Tunis. He could have been shot; but was left alone.

If Yael Dan were a professional she would have done her homework and not allowed herself to be so cunningly manipulated by those with a political agenda.

EZER WEIZMAN is an honorable

Lone voice

DAVID ELIEZRIE

THE long-simmering debate about Israel's Supreme Court has come out into the open, with haredi newspapers attacking its president Aharon Barak as being dangerous to both Judaism and democracy.

While the tone of some of the articles crosses the lines of decency, the issues raised are important and need airing. It was the court's decision to block implementation of the closure of Jerusalem's Rehov Bar-Ilan during Shabbat prayer times that acted as the catalyst for the public debate.

The court split on ideological grounds. The majority, led by Barak, elected to establish yet another public commission to examine the issue. The lonely voice of the court's only religious justice, Tzvi Tal, stood in opposition to the majority.

The court's decision illustrates the judicial activism practiced by the Barak court. In a legal system lacking the clear guidelines of a constitution this type of judicial intervention has been both good and bad.

It has arrested abuses of human rights; but, on the other hand, has at times forced an uncalled-for secular mandate on sensitive religious issues.

In the US there is also a debate between jurists on the left, who believe in reinterpreting the Constitution, and those on the right, who see it as an unchangeable document. But both groups work within constitutional limits.

In Israel, the judicial playing field has no limits. Israeli law is a mixture of different legal traditions. Commonly, Israeli justices will refer to Turkish, British, Islamic and modern American case law to support their opinions.

The fault-lines in Israel run not left to right as in the US, but from religious to secular.

A balanced court would help heal divisions instead of deepening them

And the Supreme Court is clearly stacked in favor of the secular.

FOR DECADES the court has practiced judicial tokenism.

There has always been a religious justice so that the government could claim that the Jewish legal tradition was being represented. However, this religious influence was always checked by the fact that it was restricted to just one voice.

Religious justices have made distinguished contributions to the court, but have felt frustrated by their minority status, which harms the case for equal protection under the law.

The situation is reminiscent of the policy in the American South prior to the Civil Rights Movement. One could, certainly, find a black judge or police officer in various places - but these were never more than token appointments.

Israel's court functions both as a Court of Appeal and as a Supreme Court. Many cases are heard by only three justices.

In the present situation judgments on sensitive religious issues are handed down without the voice of tradition being heard. Many cases that come under appeal are adjudicated by only three justices; a religious justice is not necessarily present on the bench. The result has been that many of the judgments passed have heightened religious-secular tensions in the country.

Had a religious justice participated in the court's deliberations, chances are some of these tensions could have been avoided.

Close to one-third of Israel's population is religiously observant, and an additional significant percentage is traditional. If Israel's Supreme Court is to be truly representative of the society it serves it must have four or five religious justices on the bench and not just one.

An infusion of religious justices would bring about a greater balance in the court, turning it into a place where distinguished scholars can adjudicate difficult legal issues seeking precedents from both contemporary and Jewish law.

As long as the current situation continues, as long as Israel has an activist court with a sole religious voice - one justice out of 14 - that court will likely go on handing down decisions that deepen division in Israel.

The writer is director of the National Conference on Jewish and Contemporary Law.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

UNFAIR ATTACK

Sir, - Yosef Goell's op-ed article of August 12, "Relevance, not reverence," is nothing less than an unfair blinding of Zevulun Hammer, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Education.

1) Mr. Goell claims that Minister Hammer views Jewish morality to be synonymous with "East European shield origin." This is quite an absurd statement, as the minister has never suggested that Jews of European origin have any kind of monopoly on morality.

2) Mr. Goell asserts that during his previous terms as minister of education, Minister Hammer brought about a situation where, and I quote, "anything smacking of Jewishness [was] abhorrent to the overwhelming majority of secular students." To say that the overwhelming majority of Jewish students find Jewish studies "abhorrent" is not only a gross misrepresentation, but fails to address the central issue of one of Minister Hammer's chief goals - making Jewish education more palatable to non-religious students. It is clear that there is a consensus

among Israeli Jewish parents regarding the need for reinforcing Jewish education and Jewish values among their children, and affording them a chance to develop their Jewish identity, as opposed to only an "international" identity.

3) Mr. Goell then charges that Minister Hammer "would be horrified at the idea of teaching... democracy in the state religious schools." This baseless claim falls flat on its face, as democracy programs, as well as civics, Judaism, Zionism, love of the land and road safety education, are at the top of the coming school year's agenda. We must not forget that it was Minister Hammer who initiated these democracy programs years ago at the ministry of education. Minister Hammer's support for the ministry's democracy programs is unquestionable and unwavering, and he is fully aware and supportive of their viability and success.

BENNY SHOOKRUN,
Spokesman,
Ministry of Education, Culture and Sport
Jerusalem.

AMERICAN IMMIGRANTS

Sir, - Michael B. Oren defends the honor of North American Jews in Israel in the light of the attacks on Dr. Dore Gold ("Scared of the 'stranger,'" August 9). Prejudice against our community is deeply rooted in Zionist history. Ask a knowledgeable Israeli concerning the eight who were killed at Tel-Hai and he will probably not know that two were American immigrants who had served in the Jewish Legion and had remained in the country. It is significant that their pictures are the only ones missing in the museum at Tel-Hai.

How many are aware that cities such as Ra'anana and Afula were first settled by American Jews, in addition to many kibbutzim and moshavim established by pioneers from North America?

Generals who win their battles with heavy losses become powerful cabinet ministers in this country, but who remembers Ben Dunkleman, the Canadian commander of the 7th Brigade who conquered Nazareth and much of Galilee between Meron and Ma'alot with only a handful of casualties? American Jews played a key role in "illegal" immigration after World War II. Luckily, Murray Greenfield, a veteran of those operations, has kept their memory alive. Otherwise, they would be all but forgotten by Israeli historians.

I can never forget the anger I felt towards a fellow soldier who shared guard duty with me one night in the winter of 1973 somewhere east of Kuneitra. Staring through the sleet towards Syrian lines, my comrade asked, "So when are you going back home to America?" His attitude is a common one in this country and it reached its abyss when Shimon Peres told American hecklers to "Go back to where you came from." Imagine an Israeli politician saying such a thing to Jews from Morocco or Romania or Yemen! His comment was one of the main reasons I voted for his opponent. I hope that another 20,000 North American immigrants did the same and that Mr. Peres, who now has plenty of spare time to reconsider, will one day apologize to our community for his bigotry.

JOSEF GILBOA
Jaffa.

ITV INTERVIEW

Sir, - Ms. Yael Dan, the sensationalist cultural affairs correspondent for Israel TV, was for some reason chosen on August 11 by the Israel Broadcasting Authority to conduct the first full-fledged interview with Yasser Arafat ever to be given to an Israeli news correspondent.

Ms. Dan is neither a specialist in Middle East political affairs, nor does she know English very well. In order to prepare for her interview, she had to ask the IBA English news team to help her translate her questions into English.

From an objective point of view, Ms. Dan's lack of background in English and the intricacies of the Oslo process prevented her from asking follow-up questions that are essential to the dynamic of any interview.

The question to the Israel Broadcasting Authority is more serious: why use a correspondent who could scarcely challenge Arafat with probing questions?

DAVID S. BEDEIN
Jerusalem.

BUDGET CUTS

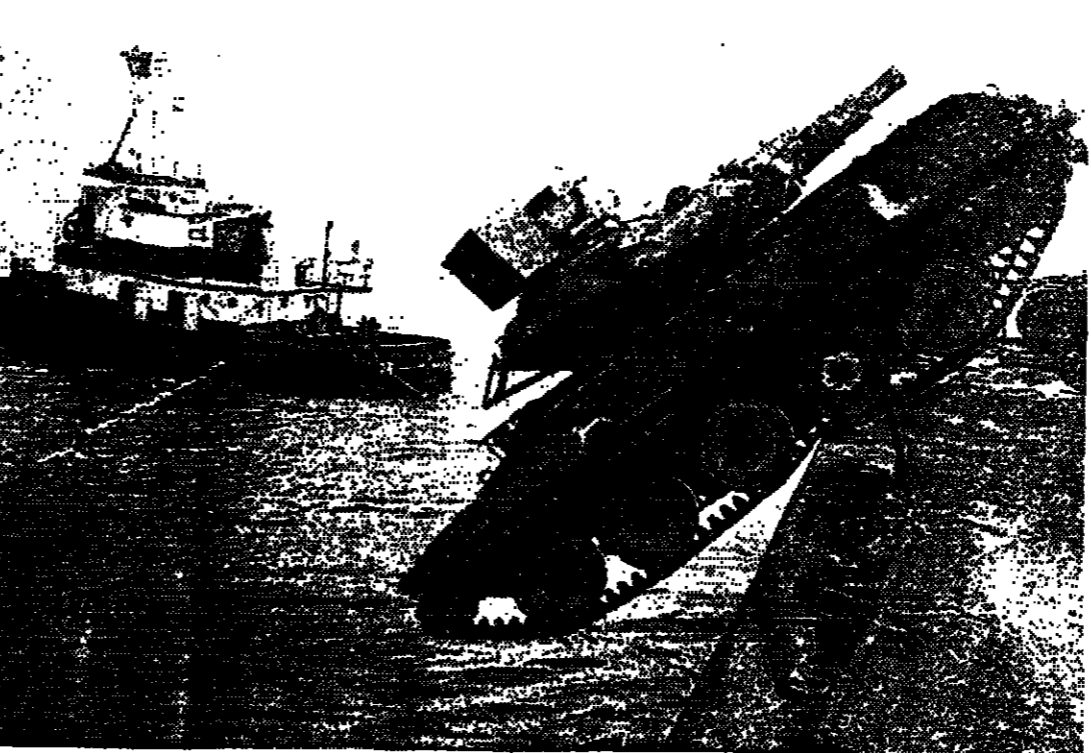
Sir, - In your editorial of August 16, "Glimmer of hope," you write: "Cuts always hurt, somewhere. But if the options are a lost limb or a dead patient, few would choose the latter."

The cuts you praise include making everyone pay for visits to the doctor and clinical tests, which will cause many people to hold out until the problem becomes serious. Without initial visits to the family doctor and early diagnosis tests, there may be more people who will lose the limb or the life. I therefore consider the above quoted comparison to be in extremely bad taste.

You also suggest emulating the US policy on individual savings. A short while ago, the US poured billions into bailing out the savings and loans companies, because their collapse mainly affected the little people (potential voters) - much the same as our government bailed out the banks in 1983, for the same reasons. Few individuals would be able to manage their own savings portfolios to successfully cover their retirement needs, as you suggest.

SHIFRA TAREN
Ashkelon.

PICTURE POSTSCRIPT



This should frighten the fish. A US Army M551 Sheridan tank is pushed off a barge into the Atlantic Ocean off the Virginia coast earlier this month. The tank, alongside other unwanted military vehicles, was dropped into the ocean to support the Virginia Marine Resources Commission Artificial Reef program.

(AP)

لانا من اناط

The Jerusalem Post Lone voice DAVID ELIEZRIE

THE long-simmering debate about Israel's Supreme Court has come out in a new, more open, with haredi newspapers...

Advice is valuable only if the recipient is ready to listen

DEAR RUTHIE RUTHIE BLUM



DEAR Ruthie, My daughter has been married for five years to a cruel and abusive man. A couple of months ago, she became pregnant...

Dear Senior in a Stew, If you are unable or unwilling to carry the weight for the two of you, you must put your foot down...

Dear Ruthie, My husband and I are an elderly couple. I have been feeling the burden of looking after the household and my husband lately. I have found a lovely golden age home...

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Yehuda Avner has become Israel's expert on Diaspora affairs after advising all the country's premiers over the past 30 years, Abraham Rabinovich writes

MENACHEM Begin, that consummate patriot of reborn Israel, prayed on the High Holidays from his father's mazkor and with his father's heavy Ashkenazi accent...

As an advisor on Diaspora Jewry to almost every prime minister over the past three decades, Yehuda Avner was able to observe the differing attitudes of Israel's leaders towards their brethren outside Zion...

Golda Meir injected a strong political dimension to Israel-Diaspora relations, spurring American Jewry in particular to rally to Israel's assistance in their own country. To the UJA and Israel Bonds dinners which had traditionally been arranged for Israeli prime ministers on their visits to America was added a formal function involving the Jewish political lobby in Washington...

As political counselor at the Israeli embassy in Washington after the Six Day War, Avner worked closely with then-ambassador Rabin. When Rabin became prime minister in 1974, he formally bestowed on Avner the title "advisor on Diaspora affairs..."



Yehuda Avner was an adviser to several prime ministers, including Menachem Begin. (David Rubinger)

sonally, as did Begin regarding the Jews in Ethiopia.

In 1983, Avner was sent to London as ambassador. Following his return in 1988 he served as Inspector General of the Foreign Service. He had been designated as Israel's next ambassador to the UN but the post went to Gad Ya'acobi as compensation for his failure in the Labor Party primaries...

Shortly before his scheduled return home last year he received a call from Rabin. "He said 'The Jews are going wild. I need your help.'"

depth, which Avner expected to be painful. What he had learned in America was that Rabin had unnecessarily alienated the Jewish community by his broad criticism which was not focused on the relatively small segment of Orthodox Zionists opposed to the peace process.

WHEN SHIMON PERES flew to Washington as Rabin's successor, he asked Avner to draft his speech to Congress. On the plane to the US, Peres asked him to take up the advisory post that Rabin had offered him. Avner did so until the Labor government fell.

After three decades as a professional observer of Diaspora Jews, Yehuda Avner believes that they deserve more respect than Israelis tend to give them. "It has been rare in Jewish history for Jews to set their own agenda," he says.

Jewish under these unprecedented conditions.

Inherent, however, in the deep differences between the Orthodox and non-Orthodox is the danger of a historic split within the Jewish people. The danger is so manifest that Avner believes that no rational Israeli government will ever adopt the amendment to the Law of Return urged by the Orthodox - namely, to define a Jew in such a way as to exclude Reform or Conservative conversions.

Despite Eshkol's reservations about Israel as a light unto the nations, Avner believes that it must at least aspire to be a beacon to the Jewish people. "The Jewish world is a spiritual world," says Avner, "and the Jews in the Diaspora want one overriding thing from Israel - a spiritual message."

A balanced court would help heal divisions instead deepening them

JESSICA STEINBERG

I have to be honest, I find it hard to take weightlifters seriously. All that grunting, snorting and posturing, just to lift up some weighted discs hanging on two sides of a bar. But there is something about the weightlifting culture...

Biceps, barbells and benchpressers

JESSICA STEINBERG

I have to be honest, I find it hard to take weightlifters seriously. All that grunting, snorting and posturing, just to lift up some weighted discs hanging on two sides of a bar. But there is something about the weightlifting culture...



A benchpresser goes all out at the annual Israel weightlifting competition, held recently in Jerusalem.

about this sport, given their bulging thigh muscles, arms and backs. They walk with that classic weightlifters' stance: arms hanging, fists clenched, legs apart and head slightly forward because of the muscles on their upper back.

YIGAL MARGOLIOT, one of the competition's organizers, is a 110-kilo former champion who has been powerlifting for nine years. Dressed in t-shirt, shorts, sandals and a kippah, the father of two told me that he gets involved in these events partially because his kippah sends a message to the spectators

and participants. "They see that anyone can get involved in this type of thing," he said, pointing at the crowd of Arab and Jewish spectators. "I got started in this when I was in the army, but I stayed with it to prove a point."

His presence has drawn a good number of those velvet kippah yeshiva students, as well as Jeff Seidel, whose claim to fame is his self-assigned task of matching guests to homes for Friday night dinner in the Jewish Quarter. Seidel was walking around, telephone in hand, while telling me his reasons for weightlifting.

A car fit for presidents finds a final parking place

A rolling fortress that shuttled US presidents through dozens of countries during the Cold War has found what may be its final home at the Richard Nixon Library and Birthplace in California. Ford Motor Co., which leased the modified Lincoln Continental to the White House, restored the car earlier this year and donated it to the library...

Birth Control in Jewish Law by David M. Feldman. An examination of the relevant precepts of the Talmud, Codes, Commentaries, and, especially, rabbinic responsa through the present day...

Marital Relations, Contraception, and Abortion as set forth in the classic texts of Jewish Law by David M. Feldman. An examination of the relevant precepts of the Talmud, Codes, Commentaries, and, especially, rabbinic responsa through the present day...

Israel's own agony aunt has the answers. Dear Ruthie, I miss reading Dear Abby. What should I do? Dear Ruthie, What should I do? I have a serious problem that I feel only Marge Proops could handle. Any advice? Dear Ruthie, How can I explain to my relatives abroad what life is REALLY like here? Answer: Buy "Dear Ruthie!"

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Thursday, August 29, 1996

Dollar halts slide against shekel

Jerusalem Post Staff
THE dollar's ongoing slide against the shekel came to a halt yesterday, at least momentarily, when the greenback gained 0.13 percent of its value against the Israeli currency and settled at NIS 3.141.

Against the Bank of Israel's basket of leading currencies the shekel lost 0.02% of its value, settling at NIS 3.5392.

The Bank of Israel did not interfere in trading yesterday, which apparently reflected a general feeling among traders that the shekel's recent appreciation may have peaked for now.

Immediately after the elections the shekel reached an all-time high of 3.299 to the dollar, reflecting a market expectation for swift budget cuts to be quickly followed by monetary expansion.

Since then, however, such expectations have been frustrated when budget cuts, though sanctioned, pertained only to fiscal '97, while inflationary data compelled the central bank first to raise interest rates by 1.5% in June and then to ease them by 0.7% and 0.5%, far less than some traders' original expectations.

At a meeting this week, Bank of Israel Governor Jacob Frenkel and Finance Minister Dan Meridor discussed the shekel's condition, among other issues, but reports of differences between the two men concerning this issue could not be confirmed.

IAI wins US jet tender
ARIEH O'SULLIVAN
ISRAEL Aircraft Industries yesterday won a tender to supply two of its Astra SPX mid-size jets to an American company, to be refitted for the US Air National Guard.

IAI will be transferring the executive jets to Tracor Flight Systems, which was awarded a \$20.8 million contract to supply a replacement for the C-21A, also known as the Lear 35A.

The jet will be with provided with modified avionics and an upgraded engine before it is given to the US military.

IAI officials said the company has an option to supply two more Astra jets, each sold for about \$7.5 million, and this could possibly lead to the sale of 40 more.

The Astra SPX was given FAA certification in January and is now being flown in the US, Canada, and South America. The plane has a range of 3,000 nautical miles and can cruise at Mach 0.82.

Bids for 23% of Hapoalim Inv. estimated at more than \$210m.

Dovrat-Shrem bids at last minute, admits Dankner has edge

GALIT LIPKIS BECK
THREE final bids were tendered yesterday for the purchase of a 23-percent stake in the Hapoalim Investment Corp., the largest Israeli bank's investment arm.

All bids are estimated to be above \$210 million.

During the last few months, the company has traded around \$155m., but Hapoalim set a minimum bid of \$190m.

The bidders include the Dankner family's holding company, through its subsidiaries Israel Salt Industries and Dankner Investment; the Steinmitz family, a dominant player in the diamond industry; and the Dovrat-Shrem

group, through its Urdan Industries company.

Several months ago, Steinmitz purchased Hapoalim's 29.6% share in Ampal American Israel Corp., which is traded in New York.

The Dovrat-Shrem group's decision to participate in the tender was only taken several hours before the tender's deadline expired yesterday, after several weeks of hesitations.

The group's doubts were due to the Dankner Group's recent purchase of 15% of the Hapoalim

Investments' shares in an off-floor transaction.

That move is expected to significantly improve Dankner's chances in its bid, and is one of the major reasons why the Israel Corp. decided to pull out of the tender two weeks ago.

Aharon Dovrat, head of the Dovrat-Shrem group, said he and his colleagues examined the situation and decided to submit an offer "despite Dankner's good chances."

Bank Hapoalim is selling the stake in order to reduce its hold-

ings in the company to 25%, in compliance with the recently amended Banking Law, which says its share in this non-financial holding should drop to a maximum of 25% by the end of this year and 20% by the end of 1999.

Hapoalim Investments is one of Israel's five largest holding companies, with diversified investments spanning the industrial, communications, trade, financial services and real estate sectors.

The company reported a second quarter net profit of NIS 9.77m., compared with a net profit of NIS 9.19m. in the corresponding period last year.

PA: Integrated rail and sea network within three years

DAVID HARRIS
GAZA and the West Bank will have a fully integrated rail system and seaport within three years, provided donor nations fulfill their promises, Mohammed Jaradat, land transport director-general of the PA Transport Ministry, said yesterday.

The PA plan is for the territories to become major links between Cairo, Haifa, and Amman, and to be less dependent on Israeli ports for international trade.

Jaradat welcomed National Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon's Tuesday announcement that rail service will be launched from the port of Ashdod to the Erez crossing point within a year. "This is very important for transport while we have no seaport in Gaza," he said.

Israel's Ports Authority yesterday welcomed the announcement, saying the line will be of considerable importance. Several months ago, the authority appointed an official to build up links with the PA.

Despite Sharon's announcement, the PA believes the sooner a port is built in Gaza, the cheaper it will be to import and export. Jaradat said the PA pays at least \$15 million a month to use the port at Ashdod. However, the head of finance at the port, Yitzhak Dagan said while there is no official figure, he suspects \$15m. to be "way off the mark."

Jaradat, in Egypt last month, was informed of the intention to operate a railway from Cairo to Al Arish by next April. The Egyptian government also confirmed it is constructing a \$400m. railway from Ismailiya to Rafah by 2000.

The trans-Palestinian route would branch eastward from the Ashkelon-to-Haifa line, entering the West Bank at Kalkilya, continuing north to Tulkarm and then east to Nablus, with a dry-harbor located eight kilometers west of Nablus.

A second line would be operat-

ed from Haifa to Afula, on to Jenin and leading eventually into Jordan. Once extended into Jordan, the track could be linked to existing lines between Amman, Zarqa, Mafrak, and Dara, on a route which already connects to Damascus.

Once the rail line passes Jenin, two possible courses could be taken to enter Jordan, either just south of the Kinneret at El Hamma, or several kilometers further south to Irbid.

If completed, the combined railway extensions in Egypt, Israel, and Jordan will eventually link Asia to Africa, with a possible future connection, via Lebanon and Syria, into Europe.

The total cost for the PA aspects of the railway and seaport is estimated at \$156m., money the PA is requesting from the donor nations, who are scheduled to meet next week.

"I hope the funding will be made available after the Cairo economic summit," concluded Jaradat.

Koor net profits increase 25% in second quarter

GALIT LIPKIS BECK
KOOR Industries yesterday reported a 25.5 percent growth in net profits for the second quarter of 1996, mainly due to the improvement in Tadiran's profits, which include capital gains from the issuance of a subsidiary company.

The company announced a second quarter net profit of NIS 191 million compared with a net profit of NIS 152m. in the corresponding period last year.

Net income for the first half of 1996 increased 15.6% to NIS 392m. The yield on shareholders equity in the first six months fell to 13.4% compared to 24.5% during all of 1995.

The rise in earnings was mainly due to Tadiran's issuance of Tadiran Telecommunications shares in the US. Koor's share in the gain reached \$21m. In the first six months, Tadiran share in Koor's net income amounted to 36.1% compared with only 3.2% in the first half of the preceding year. An improvement in Telrad and Soltam's earnings also contributed to the group's earnings.

Koor president and chief executive officer Benjamin Gaon, said the improvement in results was achieved, "primarily due to the implementation of the strategy of focusing management attention on core business, while gradually discontinuing certain non-synergistic activities that do not contribute to profitability."

He said the earnings stand out in light of the slowdown in the building industry which hindered the profitability of companies engaged in the sector. The company's earnings also suffered from the increase in the gap between the inflation and the changes in the exchange rate. Gaon said the gap is detrimental for Koor which derives 35% of its revenues from export and must compete with lower priced imports to the domestic market.

Sales for the second quarter remained virtually unchanged, at NIS 2.74b. Sales for the first half increased 2% to NIS 5.75b. The rise was recorded in Makhteshim and Agan (6.4% in sales), Mashav (9.6%), The Electronics Group (13.3%), Soltam (44.9%), Hosen (34%), The Tourism Group (25.6%) and Tadiran (7.6%). A drop in sales was registered in United Steel Mills (down 19.7%), Shemen (-39.7%), METCO (7.5%), and Phoenixia (9.8%).

Exports in the second quarter increased 7.7% to \$292m. compared to \$272m. Exports during the first half of 1996 rose to \$613m. compared to \$569m.

Operating income for the second quarter rose 3.6% to NIS 293m. Operating income for the first half rose 10.9% to NIS 643m.

During the reported period, Gaon said Koor increased its activities with Jordan, via Koor Peace Enterprises. He said a memorandum of understanding was signed in regard to the import of cement from Jordan to Israel and an agreement was signed between Anroa, a Jordanian company, and Mashav for a gas terminal and Qatar to Alcala.

Osem Investments reported a 13.3 percent drop in net earnings for the second quarter resulting mostly from a rise in marketing and sales expenses.

Net profits in the second quarter fell to NIS 11.46m. compared with NIS 13.22m. in the same period last year. Net profits during the first half dropped 4.5% to NIS 32.11m. compared with NIS 33.62m.

Management said earnings were hindered by high marketing and sale expenses associated with the introduction of new products and brands, including Nestle products.

The cost of sales in the second

BUSINESS BRIEFS

3,000 apartments to be built with fixed prices: 3,000 apartments will be constructed over the next few months with their prices fixed for each meter built. Deputy Construction and Housing Minister Meir Porush announced yesterday.

Thirty-eight companies have already won the contracts for the work, and Porush wants construction to begin as soon as possible. The homes will be constructed in Ma'aleh Adumim, Pisgat Ze'ev, Beersheba, Yokne'am, Ramat Beit Shemesh, Tirat Carmel, Haifa, Ashdod and Nesher. Each meter of property is to be built at a fixed dollar rate, with apartments costing no more than \$110,000-dollar rate, with apartments costing no more than \$110,000-dollar rate. Marketing will be shared with the Israel Lands Administration. *David Harris*

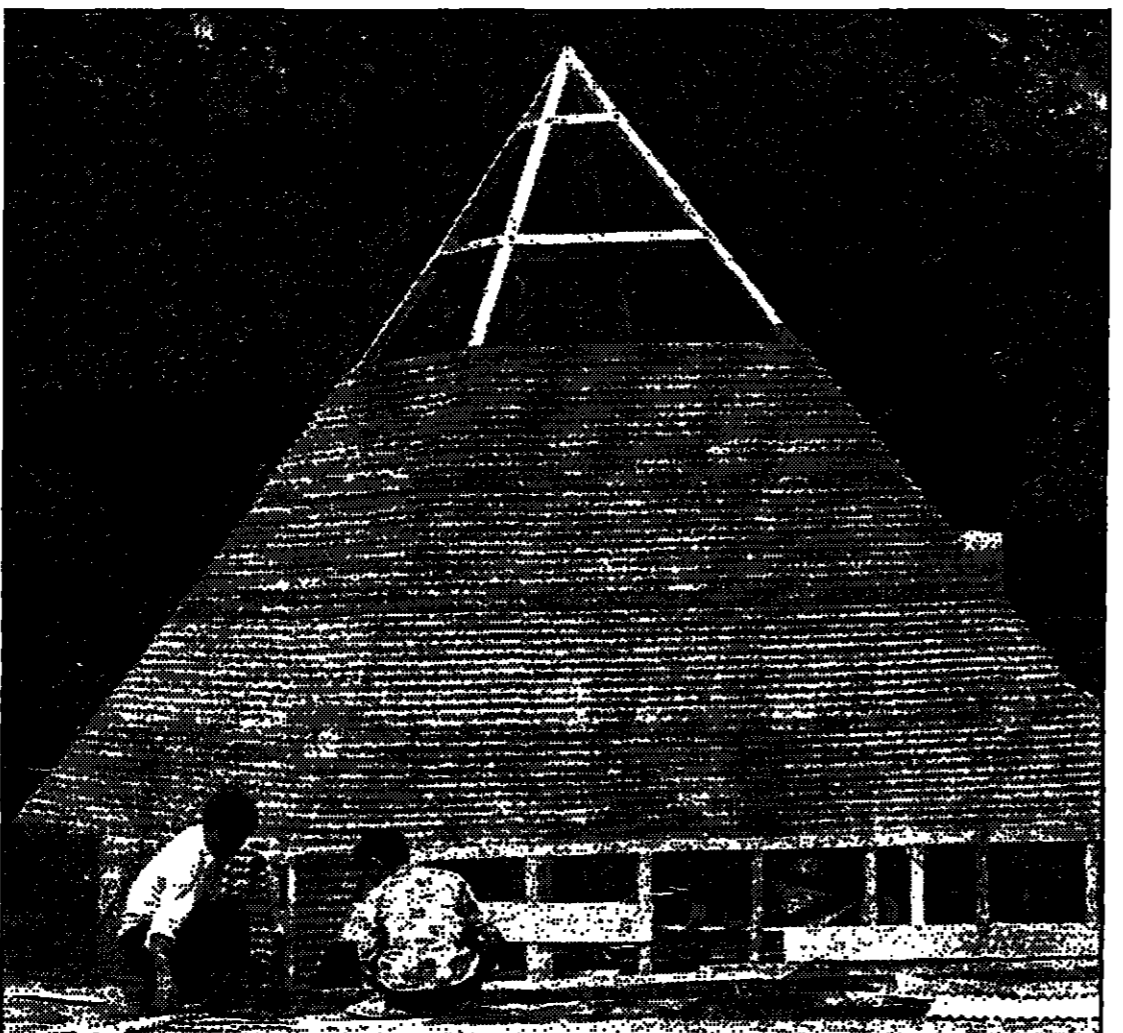
Exposing market to imported goods will cause serious damage: Exposing the market to imported goods will cause serious damage to the timber industry by the flood of Far Eastern imports, leaders of the sector said.

However, acting director-general of the Trade and Industry Ministry Yehosea Gleitman dismissed this claim during a meeting with industry representatives yesterday. Gleitman requested the industrialists compile a report to prove their claims. *David Harris*

Want to keep in close touch with your securities till 11 PM?

JOIN THE TELEBANK
DIAL 02-5212111 FROM 8 AM TO 11 PM

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK



Chinese soldiers construct a replica of a pyramid and sphinx in Beijing yesterday. Since their state subsidies were withdrawn, public parks have been building models of famous sites as a way to increase visitors and revenue.

H&R Block halts Compuserve spinoff due to problems in online service industry

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (Reuters) - H&R Block Inc., citing problems facing the online service industry, said yesterday it has decided not to complete the spin-off of the rest of its Compuserve Corp. subsidiary, at least for now.

The company, which owns 80 percent of Compuserve after spinning off part of the online service earlier this year, cited Compuserve's recent and projected losses and uncertainties facing the online industry.

Last week, Compuserve reported a loss for its fiscal first quarter and projected a loss for the second quarter. It said a drop in subscriber growth, investments in its Wow! service for novice users, and other costs hurt its performance.

Compuserve and rivals America Online and Prodigy have been hurt as computer users have gone directly to the Internet through lower-cost access providers rather

than logging on via proprietary online services.

Some industry analysts have speculated that the online services may not survive in the long run, though the eventual shape of the online industry remains far from certain.

Meanwhile, the race to sign up new subscribers has proven costly and time-consuming for the online services, which include the Microsoft Network.

The online providers are also facing costly upgrades as they seek to improve their content and upgrade technology.

H&R Block spun off 20 percent of Compuserve in April and had planned to distribute the rest to its shareholders.

But it said in a statement that it has decided not to present the proposed spin-off of the rest of Compuserve to shareholders at its annual meeting scheduled for

September 11.

"The board continues to believe that a separation of Compuserve is in the best interests of H&R Block shareholders and will continue to consider the matter," H&R Block interim president Frank Salizzoni said.

In addition to the losses, it cited planned introduction in September of new interfaces for Compuserve and Wow!

Last month, a group of investors filed a class-action suit against Compuserve, alleging that the company and H&R Block violated federal securities laws by failing to disclose that Compuserve's subscriber base growth and profitability are in jeopardy.

Compuserve shares jumped after the announcement, adding \$1.1875 to \$13.50 on Nasdaq. But they remained well below the \$30 a share price of the stock offering in April.

PRIME **PRIME** **PRIME**
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 27.8.96
Purchase Price: 110.1
Redemption Price: 108.66
leumi pia כספ זר

(707) TARGET 0170
Mutual Fund for Foreign Residents
Date: 27.8.96
Purchase Price: 149.07
Redemption Price: 147.04
leumi pia כספ זר

ISRAEL MONEY MARKETS			
Patah (foreign currency deposit rates) (29.7.96)			
Currency (deposit for)	3 MONTHS	6 MONTHS	12 MONTHS
U.S. dollar (\$250,000)	4.75	4.875	5.375
Pound sterling (£100,000)	2.1084	4.5327	4.8518
German mark (DM 200,000)	0.6153	0.8223	1.0225
Swiss franc (SF 200,000)	1.750	1.875	2.250
Yen (10 million yen)	1.000	1.125	1.500

(Rates vary higher or lower than indicated according to deposit)

Shekel Foreign Exchange Rates* (28.8.96)			
Currency basket	CHECKS AND TRANSFERS		Rep. Rate**
	Buy	Sell	
U.S. dollar	3.5131	3.5598	3.5392
German mark	3.1184	3.1687	3.1410
Pound sterling	4.8544	2.1425	2.1243
French franc	0.6153	0.8223	1.0225
Japanese yen (100)	2.8754	2.8754	0.64
Dutch guilder	1.8802	1.9106	2.82
Swiss franc	2.6980	2.8501	2.58
Norwegian krona	0.4888	0.4790	0.48
Danish krone	0.5454	0.5542	0.4742
Finnish mark	0.8943	0.7055	0.57
Canadian dollar	2.2818	2.3188	2.24
Australian dollar	0.6813	2.5041	2.42
Belgian franc (10)	1.0280	1.0386	0.62
Austrian schilling (10)	2.8959	3.0443	1.06
Italian lira (1000)	2.0589	2.0832	2.02
Jordanian dinar	0.8800	0.8300	4.24
Egyptian pound	3.9661	0.8700	0.88
ECU	5.0511	4.0291	4.98
Irish punt	2.4936	2.6339	2.45
Spanish peseta (100)			5.21
			5.0890

*These rates vary according to bank. **Bank of Israel.
SOURCE: BANK LEUMI

הקדמה מן האדל

Key Representative Rates table showing US dollar, Sterling, and Mark rates against NIS.

New York market indexes table listing DJ Industrials, S&P 500, and other indices.

Other stock market indexes table including FTSE 100, Nikkei, and Hang Seng.

Israeli stocks in NY table listing various companies like Bank Leumi and Bezeq.

NYSE AMEX table listing various market indices.

Foreign financial data table listing exchange rates for various currencies.

LIBOR rates table listing interest rates for different terms.

INFLATION table listing inflation rates for various countries.

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TEL AVIV STOCKS

Main Tel Aviv Stocks table with columns for Name, Price, Change, Volume, and % Volume.

ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

Source: ISRAEL DISCOUNT BANK

INTERNATIONAL STOCK PRICES

Large table of international stock prices for various companies and markets.

Gains in Africa-Israel boost market

TEL AVIV STOCK MARKET

FELICE MARANZ

Two-Sided Index 179.75 +2.73% Maof Index 191.21 +2.86%

STOCKS rose for a second straight day yesterday, buoyed by gains in Africa-Israel investments Ltd., an insurance and real estate company several buyers are pursuing.

The Maof Index rose 2.86 percent to 191.21 and the Two-Sided Index went up 2.73% to 179.75.

Of 984 shares trading across the exchange, nearly three times as many shares rose as fell.

Some NIS 87 million worth of shares changed hands, NIS 30m. above yesterday's level and about 40% above this month's average daily trading level.

Africa-Israel, listed on the Maof Index, rose 10%.

"The market is going up because of Africa-Israel," said Daniella Finn, head of sales at the Tel Aviv investment firm Batucha Securities & Investments Ltd.

Investors Moti Zisser and Eitan Wertheimer boosted their stakes in the company to between 13% and 15%, according to news reports.

The bank has so far rebuffed an offer by Zisser and Wertheimer. "Yesterday, Leumi's mutual funds began buying (Africa-Israel), and there is speculation of all sorts of off-the-floor trades," said Finn.

Wertheimer and Zisser also oppose Bank Leumi's agreement to sell Africa-Israel's insurance business to Italian insurer Generali. Finn said "it doesn't look like they'll be able to" scuttle the planned transaction.

Bank Leumi's shares, also on the Maof Index, rose 4%.

Bank Leumi's shares, also on the Maof Index, rose 4%.

Dow pushes FTSE to new record

WORLD MARKET ROUNDUP

LONDON (Reuters) - A firm start on Wall Street helped push leading London shares to a new closing high yesterday.

German shares shed some gains on profit-taking but nonetheless ended the floor session higher buoyed by demand for chemical stocks and a stable dollar.

On the foreign exchange markets, a survey indicating weaker than expected Japanese business sentiment boosted the dollar, which ended near the session's high at around 108.45 yen, compared with Tuesday's European close of 107.78.

London shares, boosted by Wall Street, a successful gilt auction and renewed bid speculation, added to early gains with the blue chip FTSE index ending 13 points up at 3918.7, a new closing high.

Earlier in the day it peaked at 3922.1.

Bid speculation centered on the financial sector. Lloyds Abbey Life shares surged amid rumors that Prudential, which announced the sale of its Mercantile & General unit, wanted to bid for the company.

But analysts said Lloyds TSB Group was a more likely bidder for life insurer Lloyds Abbey than Prudential.

Lloyds TSB already has a 62 percent stake in the life insurer.

IBM shores up market

WALL STREET REPORT

NEW YORK (Reuters) - Blue-chip stocks ended with small gains yesterday as a jump in the shares of International Business Machines Corp. provided most of the luster to an otherwise dull market.

Based on early and unofficial data, the Dow Jones industrial average ended up 1.11 points at 5,712.38.

In the broader market, advancing issues beat declines 12-9 on light volume of 297 million shares on the New York Stock Exchange.

CURRENCY CROSS-RATES

Table of currency cross-rates for various currencies.

CONVENTION

But new polling data gave the Democrats reason to cheer. ABC News's nightly tracking poll on Sunday and Monday found 51 percent of registered voters would back Clinton if the election were today.

He also demonstrated the political power of his office, proposing \$8.5 billion in new spending over five years to promote literacy, clean up urban toxic waste sites and encourage companies to hire welfare recipients.

Seeking to dim Clinton's spotlight, Dole interrupted a California vacation to team up with running mate Jack Kemp and promote his own plan to cut taxes.

"He's going to ride into town on a track. It's called the Status Quo Express," Dole said of his rival.

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'Serious' Medvedev, medalist Davenport advance in US Open

NEW YORK (Reuter) - Outspoken Andrei Medvedev exchanged his reputation as the clown prince of tennis yesterday for a new no-nonsense attitude that has made life on the courts fun again.

"I think I'm much more focused on what I have to do, and that's playing tennis," Medvedev said after routing Frenchman Jean-Philippe Fleurian 6-2, 6-0, 6-1 in the opening round of the US Open.

It was Medvedev's sixth victory in a row after winning his first tournament of the year last week at the Hamlet Cup.

"I'm not here to fight the press or talk about the food or entertain the people off the court. I'm here to play tennis and to win. I have much less fun off the court. I have much more fun on the court," he said.

Just three years ago Medvedev was one of the world's best, with a ranking of six after reaching the French Open semifinal and winning three tournaments.

But Medvedev's ranking slowly began to drop last year as he struggled with a wrist injury. The Ukrainian finally hit a low of 44th two months ago.

In women's action, second seed and co-world No. 1 Monica Seles advanced to the third round without hitting a ball on Wednesday.

Seles, the 1991 and 1992 champion who dropped just one game in her opening match, was scheduled to play Laurence Courtois of Belgium last night.

But tournament officials announced about 4 1/2 hours before the match that Courtois had

pulled out due to a left knee bone inflammation, moving Seles into the next round on a walkover.

American golden girl Lindsay Davenport rode a wave of new-found confidence and her trimmed down frame into the third round.

The eighth-seeded Davenport, who dropped 20 lbs in a fitness campaign that helped carry her to an Olympic gold medal, dispatched Slovakian Henrieta Nagyova 6-0, 6-4 in just 49 minutes despite a couple of brief second-set lapses.

Davenport was the hottest player on the women's tour coming into the Open after wins over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario in the Olympics and Steffi Graf in Los Angeles earlier this month. And Nagyova did little to cool her down.

Davenport was joined in the third round by popular Argentine Gabriela Sabatini, who opened the day's program on the stadium under cloudy skies with an uninspiring 6-2, 6-3 win over American Ann Grossman.

"I'm not as satisfied with the way I played today as I was the first day," said the 15th-seeded Sabatini, who missed both the French Open and Wimbledon this year with a pulled stomach muscle.

Davenport, whose new celebrity as Olympic champion saw her throw out the first ball at a New York Mets baseball game in nearby Shea Stadium on Tuesday night, blanked the 68th-ranked Nagyova in a lightning fast, 16-minute first set.

Davenport unleashed 21 winners to just seven for the Slovakian Federation Cup play-

er for the match.

Nagyova halted the shutout by breaking Davenport's serve to open the second set and built a 3-1 lead before the American ran off the next four games for a 5-4 lead.

A couple of Davenport unforced errors while serving for the match allowed Nagyova to prolong the inevitable. But the American quickly broke back to advance.

The 72nd-ranked Grossman looked good in a very unWimbledon-like purple dress, but the tennis was not pretty.

Her looping shots frustrated topspin queen Sabatini at times, but not enough to affect the outcome of the match.

Grossman dropped all five of her service games in a sloppy second set in which Sabatini also was broken three times.

Davenport admitted to being nervous about getting through the first couple of rounds because of past failures here. But she said her confidence level was at all-time high.

While the women began second-round play, the men were finishing up the first round with virtually all the marquee names given the day off.

Ninth seed Wayne Ferreira of South Africa and American Todd Martin (12) were the only top men scheduled for action and Ferreira quickly joined the growing list of seeded casualties.

Ferreira brought an 18-4 record on summer hardcourts into the Open and was expected to make some noise here after winning a title last week in Toronto that included victories over fellow seeds Martin and Thomas Enqvist.

Second division awaits Mac. Jerusalem hoopsters

MACCABI Jerusalem was demoted to the National Basketball League's second division last night due to budgetary problems.

Among other financial shortcomings, the club was unable to pay its players' salaries in full and had not submitted to the league any plan to become solvent in the near future. Their demotion was assured after the club lost its appeal to the Israel Basketball Association. Maccabi Jerusalem claimed that its financial shortfall

was not as severe as originally believed and that it would soon be able to cancel its debts.

Maccabi Ramat Gan, which had been relegated last year, will take Maccabi Jerusalem's place in the first division.

Hazan loaned to Hapoel Tel Aviv

MACCABI Haifa and Israel defender Alon Hazan was yesterday loaned to Hapoel Tel Aviv for a sum of \$80,000. Hazan, who was looking to move away from Haifa during the off season, has not taken the field since the season began (two Toto Cup matches and one round of league action) while the two clubs haggled over the transfer fee.

His lack of matchplay had also caused national coach Shlomo Scharf to place in doubt Hazan's inclusion in the starting lineup for Israel's important World Cup qualifier with Bulgaria. Hazan is training with the squad, and a place on the bench, at least, appears probable for Sunday's match at the National Stadium, Ramat Gan. The squad took the day off yesterday and will resume its training camp today.

Scharf is rumored to have made up his mind about nine of the players for the starting lineup: Bonnie Ginsburg, Felix Halfon, Amir Shelah, Gadi Brumer, Haim Revivo, Eyal Berkowitz, Ronnen Harazi, Tal Banin and Nir Klingler. Ronnie Rosenthal, David Amsalem, Hazan and Avi Nimni are the four players in line for the two remaining spots, with Nimni looking a likely candidate after his recent good form for Maccabi Tel Aviv.

On the other hand, Scharf is said to be very disappointed with Rosenthal's form, but the national coach may be persuaded to utilize the Tottenham Hotspur player because of his vast experience.

Liam Botham shines in county debut for Hampshire

PORTSMOUTH (Reuter) - Liam Botham demonstrated his father Ian's golden touch yesterday, taking five for 67 on his county debut for Hampshire against Middlesex.

His first victim was former England captain Mike Gatting who pushed Botham's seventh delivery in first-class cricket to square-leg where Matthew Keech held the catch.

The 19-year-old medium-pacer then had John Carr out to his 18th ball and returned later in the day to polish off Richard Johnson, Ricky Fay and last man Phil Tufnell as Middlesex was all out for 199. Hampshire was 105 for four at the close.

Padres spoil Valentine's debut; Molitor chases 3,000 hits

NEW YORK (AP) - Steve Finley's three-run homer high-lighted a four-run eighth inning to carry the San Diego Padres past New York 4-3 on Tuesday, and spoil Bobby Valentine's managerial debut with the Mets.

Finley's 21st homer came after Valentine, who replaced the fired Dallas Green, pulled starter Bobby Jones for Dave Micki (5-6).

Trailing 3-0, Jody Reed singled to open the San Diego eighth and one out later, Tony Gwynn singled to left. After Micki entered, Wally Joyner drilled his first pitch to right, scoring Reed. On Micki's next pitch, Finley homered off the base of the scoreboard in right-center to make it 4-3.

Willie Blair (2-6) pitched two innings, and Trevor Hoffman pitched out of a bases-loaded jam in the eighth and finished for his 31st save.

Pirates 3, Braves 2

Denny Neagle beat one of the teams that is trying to trade for him, outpitching 20-game winner John Smoltz to lead Pittsburgh to a home win.

Neagle (14-6), the subject of trade talks between the two teams, survived solo homers by Jermaine Dye and Andrew Jones Tuesday night to pitch six-hit ball in eight innings.

Neagle won his second consecutive start after going winless for a month, striking out six and walking one.

Al Martin, a .586 career hitter against Smoltz (20-7), went 3-for-3 and drove in the go-ahead run in a two-run fifth inning as the Pirates avoided falling to 0-4 against the Braves starter this season.

Martins 6, Cardinals 3

Gary Sheffield, benched in Florida's last game for disciplinary reasons, had two hits and two RBIs as visiting Florida won its

fourth straight.

Restored to the No. 3 slot in the batting order, Sheffield had a two-run double and scored in the first inning. He singled, stole second and scored again in the third.

Florida manager John Boles benched his \$6.1-million slugger Sunday against Cincinnati for missing stretching exercises three hours before the first pitch.

Astros 6, Cubs 5

Tony Eusebio tied his career high with four RBIs, including a go-ahead sacrifice fly in the bottom of the eighth.

The Astros, who trailed 5-0 after three innings, moved 1 1/2 games ahead of St. Louis in the NL Central.

Boston, which won its fourth straight and 21st of 27 to remain three games behind Baltimore in the AL wild-card race.

Mike Stanley hit his 24th home run in the top of the seventh inning, and Clemens (8-11) beat Chuck Finley (12-13) for the second time in two weeks. Troy O'Leary added an RBI single in the ninth.

Clemens came within three outs of tying Young's club record of 38 shutouts. Heathcliff Slocumb started the ninth and walked Randy Velarde with the bases loaded and two outs to make it 2-1. But he struck out Jim Edmonds for his 24th save.

Clemens, a three-time Cy Young Award winner won his fourth straight start after going 14 consecutive starts without a victory, and has allowed only one earned run in 33 innings.

When Clemens retired Edmonds on a grounder to lead off the sixth inning, he broke Young's 88-year-old club record of 2,728 1/3 innings pitched.

Twins 6, Blue Jays 4 (11)

Paul Molitor went 5-for-5 and Minnesota scored the go-ahead run in the top of the 11th inning on Toronto shortstop Alex Gonzalez's throwing error.

Molitor had five singles and now needs just 24 hits to reach 3,000. It was the fourth five-hit game of the 40-year-old Molitor's career.

Indians 12, Tigers 2

Jim Thome went 4-for-5 as visiting Cleveland remained unbeaten in 11 games against Detroit this season.



SUITING UP - Dodgers' Brett Butler (r), who underwent surgery for throat cancer, relaxes with coach Joey Amalfitano after a workout yesterday.

TUESDAY'S NL RESULTS:

Philadelphia 3, San Francisco 2
Pittsburgh 3, Atlanta 2
San Diego 4, New York 3
Florida 6, St. Louis 3
Houston 6, Chicago 5
Los Angeles 5, Montreal 1
Cincinnati 4, Colorado 3

TUESDAY'S AL RESULTS:

Baltimore 3, Oakland 1
Cleveland 12, Detroit 2
Minnesota 6, Toronto 4 (11)
Milwaukee 4, Chicago 2
Kansas City 4, Texas 3 (10)
Boston 2, California 1
Seattle 7, New York 4

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division	West Division
Atlanta 81 49 .623	San Diego 73 60 .549
Montreal 70 60 .538	St. Louis 69 63 .523
Florida 62 70 .470	Chicago 64 65 .496
New York 59 73 .447	Cincinnati 66 66 .496
Philadelphia 54 79 .406	Pittsburgh 58 75 .427
Central Division	West Division
Houston 71 62 .534	San Diego 73 60 .549
St. Louis 69 63 .523	St. Louis 69 63 .523
Chicago 64 65 .496	Chicago 64 65 .496
Cincinnati 66 66 .496	Cincinnati 66 66 .496
Pittsburgh 58 75 .427	Pittsburgh 58 75 .427
West Division	West Division
San Diego 73 60 .549	San Diego 73 60 .549
Los Angeles 71 80 .542	Los Angeles 71 80 .542
Colorado 69 64 .519	Colorado 69 64 .519
San Francisco 58 74 .431	San Francisco 58 74 .431

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division	West Division
New York 74 57 .565	Texas 75 57 .568
Baltimore 70 61 .534	Seattle 68 63 .519
Boston 68 65 .511	Oakland 63 72 .487
Toronto 62 71 .467	California 61 71 .462
Detroit 47 85 .368	California 61 71 .462
Central Division	West Division
Cleveland 79 53 .598	Texas 75 57 .568
Chicago 70 64 .522	Seattle 68 63 .519
Minnesota 66 66 .500	Oakland 63 72 .487
Milwaukee 64 69 .481	California 61 71 .462
Kansas City 60 73 .451	California 61 71 .462
West Division	West Division
Texas 75 57 .568	Texas 75 57 .568
Seattle 68 63 .519	Seattle 68 63 .519
Oakland 63 72 .487	Oakland 63 72 .487
California 61 71 .462	California 61 71 .462

AMERICAN LEAGUE
Red Sox 2, Angels 1

Roger Clemens allowed three hits over eight innings and surpassed Cy Young as the career leader in innings pitched for Boston, which won its fourth straight and 21st of 27 to remain three games behind Baltimore in the AL wild-card race.

Mike Stanley hit his 24th home run in the top of the seventh inning, and Clemens (8-11) beat Chuck Finley (12-13) for the second time in two weeks. Troy O'Leary added an RBI single in the ninth.

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SPORTS BRIEFS

Last chance for England and 5 Nations

England has been given a final chance to remain in the Five Nations' championship despite striking an exclusive television deal with Rupert Murdoch's Sky television.

In a statement yesterday, the Four Nations TV Committee said dates had been set for a competition involving Scotland, Wales, Ireland and France next year.

"Between now and then, discussions will take place in one final attempt to persuade the Rugby Football Union to save the Five Nations' championship in its current form," the statement said.

Top runners asked to join Owens's tribute

Organizers hope to persuade Britain's former Olympic 100-meters champion Linford Christie to join a "Dream Team" sprint relay in a special tribute to Jesse Owens tomorrow's Berlin grand prix.

Berlin promoter Rudi Thiel has managed to get most of the Olympic 100m champions since 1948 to attend the meeting, which is being held in the stadium where Owens won four gold medals 60 years ago at the Berlin Olympics.

Candia's Donovan Bailey, the Olympic 100m champion and world record holder; and Namibian Frankie Fredericks, the silver medalist at the recent Atlanta Games, have already agreed to run in the 4x100m team.

Thiel said he had also asked Olympic 200 and 400 champion Michael Johnson to run as well as Christie.

Boardman breaks world 4,000m record

Britain's Chris Boardman broke the world 4,000m cycling record by more than six seconds at the world championships in Manchester yesterday.

Boardman clocked four minutes 13.353 seconds in the qualifying round of the individual pursuit event to beat the previous mark of 4:19.699 set by Andrea Collinelli of Italy at the Atlanta Olympics on July 24.

Finland beats Germany in ice hockey

Finland beat Germany 8-3 in a World Cup ice hockey game yesterday in Helsinki. After two wins in two games they lead the European group with four points and an impressive 15-6 goal difference.

Dubbed the 'Dream Team' in the local media, half the Finnish squad plays for professional teams in the NHL.

Veterans Hannu Virta and captain Jari Kurri put Finland two goals up after just six minutes. Dallas forward Jere Lehtinen scored twice and his second goal in the mid-period was decisive.

If Finland beats Sweden on Sunday, they will advance to the semifinals.

Joseph Hoffman, Sports Editor

האזנה מאלו

CLASSICAL MUSIC

MICHAEL AJZENSTADT KOREAN-BORN harpist Jung Kwak, who recently toured her native land with the Israeli Piano Quartet, appears tonight (8.30) at the Sherover Theatre in Jerusalem in a special concert with the Ashdod Chamber Orchestra, under music director Luis Gorelik, playing Handel's Harp Concerto. Also on the program are Elgar's Serenade for strings and Beethoven's Fourth Symphony. Young Jerusalem pianist Orit Wolf plays Haim Zuckor's Variations for Piano and Orchestra. Kwak remains in Jerusalem, and on Saturday evening (8.30) presents a recital at the Israel Museum.

CRITIC'S CHOICE



Out of Korea: Jung Kwak plays Handel's Harp Concerto at Jerusalem's Sherover Theater.

in Jaffa tonight at 9 p.m., info: 03-5643444.

JAZZ

HELEN KAYE

DRUMMER Elvin Jones and his combo (Tuborg ball) send off the last day of the Eilat Red Sea Jazz Festival in style at 8 p.m. Gottfried & Friends (Ma'ariv) - that's pianist Dani Gottfried, festival music director, continue with Platina, the legendary 70s group that has reconvened for Eilat, (IsAir) at 9.30 p.m. At 10.30 (Tuborg) is the legendary George Coleman Quartet; drummer Arnie Kaminsky & Friends (Ma'ariv) and Harold Rubin's eclectic Zaviot band (IsAir) entertain at midnight. Rounding off the festival: Spyro Gyra (Tuborg) and the Preservation Hall Jazz Band (Coca-Cola) play at 1 a.m. It's the last after hours jam session round the pool until next year.

CANTORIAL

HELEN KAYE

DO It for Your Children is a gala charity cantorial concert and all the proceeds will go to the Institute for Child Development and the Pediatric Neurology Unit at Tel Aviv's Sourasky Medical Center (Ichilov). The stars are tenor Robert Bloch - who has sung opera at the Met and the NJO between his cantorial engagements, Benjamin Miller, Naftali Herstik, and Haim Adler. The concert's 17 numbers are dedicated to the late Yossele Rosenblatt who died on tour in Israel in 1933. There will also be Jewish soul music from the likes of pianist Astrith Baltzan, and musicians Moshe Zurman and Albert Piamenta. At the Noga Theater

FILM

ADINA HOFFMAN

**** A LITTLE PRINCESS - Alfonso Cuarón directed this gorgeously heartfelt adaptation of the Frances Hodgson Burnett Victorian tearjerker about little Sara Crewe, whose father's reported death sends her tumbling from privilege to poverty at a fancy all-girls school. Written for the screen by Richard LaGravenese and Elizabeth Chandler, the script wittily mixes the book's porcelain-precious themes about girlhood and the imagination with a harsh view of the grim streets of early 20th-century New York, the trenches of World War I, and the bleaker sides of human nature. The constant threat of hunger and cold just beyond the cozy charm of childhood, gives the film its power. (English dialogue, Hebrew subtitles. General audiences.)

TELEVISION

HELEN KAYE

A DOCUMENTARY on soccer? Oh yawn! Well no! Not at all! Sure, the Israeli documentary by Roni Tzror and Doron Tzabari, Hapoel Beit Sha'an - A War Film, is about six weeks in the life of the city's team and their fight to stay in the National League. But, it's also very much about the way the team impacts on and interacts with the city. The BBC will show the film in the fall, and so many people wrote to request a second showing, and Tel-Ad is running a repeat on Ch.2 on Saturday at 5:45 p.m.

TELEVISION

CHANNEL 1

8:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Animals 8:30 Tomcats 9:00 Gays, Gal and Gal 9:15 Kalamu 9:30 Huckleberry Finn 10:00 Little Women 10:30 Vaccated Studio 10:30 Animated series on animals 10:30 Tomcats 14:00 Gays, Gal and Gal 14:15 Kalamu 14:30 Moomins 15:00 Auzo

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Zap on the Wave 15:35 Tom and Jerry 15:50 Zappers 16:00 Heartbreak High 16:30 A New Evening 17:34 Zap on the Wave 17:50 Yalududu 18:00 Zap on the Wave 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Meeting - current affairs 19:00 News in Arabic HEBREW PROGRAMS 18:31 Grace Under Fire 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 Summer with Mera Pe'er 22:00 The Beatles Anthology - 20-part series on the story of the world's most successful popular musical act 23:00 As Time Goes By 23:30 News 00:00 Stories of the Good Land

CHANNEL 2

10:00 BBC nature series 11:00 Super Duper 11:30 Make a Wish (pt) 12:00 Eilat Bayon adventure stories 12:30 Basic Arabic 13:00 A Matter of Time 13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air 14:00 Tick Tick 14:30 All Together Now 15:00 Cippor 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Zohu Zoh 18:00 Santa Barbara 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 Hudson Street 21:05 Cariddi Camera with Ygal Shtun 21:50 Tremors (1989) - Released from prison, and on the loose, a creature that burrow through the surface of the earth and gobble up almost every living thing in sight. Starring Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward. (96 mins.) 23:45 Midnight - video clips 00:00 News 00:05 Ticket for Two 00:30 Fleets of Fire 1:30 From the Concert Hall 2:00 On the Edge of the Shelf

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed)

15:05 Double Dragon 15:35 NBA

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8:30 News in Arabic 6:45 Exercise Hour 7:00 Good Morning Israel

EDUCATIONAL TV

8:00 Animals 8:30 Tomcats 9:00 Gays, Gal and Gal 9:15 Kalamu 9:30 Huckleberry Finn 10:00 Little Women 10:30 Vaccated Studio 10:30 Animated series on animals 10:30 Tomcats 14:00 Gays, Gal and Gal 14:15 Kalamu 14:30 Moomins 15:00 Auzo

CHANNEL 1

15:30 Zap on the Wave 15:35 Tom and Jerry 15:50 Zappers 16:00 Heartbreak High 16:30 A New Evening 17:34 Zap on the Wave 17:50 Yalududu 18:00 Zap on the Wave 18:15 News in English

ARABIC PROGRAMS

18:30 Meeting - current affairs 19:00 News in Arabic HEBREW PROGRAMS 18:31 Grace Under Fire 20:00 Mabat News 20:45 Summer with Mera Pe'er 22:00 The Beatles Anthology - 20-part series on the story of the world's most successful popular musical act 23:00 As Time Goes By 23:30 News 00:00 Stories of the Good Land

CHANNEL 2

10:00 BBC nature series 11:00 Super Duper 11:30 Make a Wish (pt) 12:00 Eilat Bayon adventure stories 12:30 Basic Arabic 13:00 A Matter of Time 13:30 The Fresh Prince of Bel Air 14:00 Tick Tick 14:30 All Together Now 15:00 Cippor 16:00 The Bold and the Beautiful 17:00 Zohu Zoh 18:00 Santa Barbara 19:00 Baywatch 20:00 News 20:30 Hudson Street 21:05 Cariddi Camera with Ygal Shtun 21:50 Tremors (1989) - Released from prison, and on the loose, a creature that burrow through the surface of the earth and gobble up almost every living thing in sight. Starring Kevin Bacon and Fred Ward. (96 mins.) 23:45 Midnight - video clips 00:00 News 00:05 Ticket for Two 00:30 Fleets of Fire 1:30 From the Concert Hall 2:00 On the Edge of the Shelf

JORDAN TV (unconfirmed)

15:05 Double Dragon 15:35 NBA

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CRYPTIC CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Noticing pain—without dope (8), 5 Joining a party extremist much admired (6), 7 The cartoonist is a Roman, it turned out (8), 10 The French left—so awkward! (6), 12 Ordering off more than one player (5), 13 Concerned with shops' returns (8), 15 Confand the Greek wants fruit (7), 18 Eager to be a mourner (4), 20 A Welshman in the vanguard (4), 21 To read alone can bring solace (7), 25 Managed some hundreds—paid for freedom (8), 26 Colour and quietly steal off (8), 28 Ballyhoo resulting from criminal enterprise (6), 29 Account the cleric will find correct (8), 30 Scrape for birds left outside the church (6), 31 Bank having taken in little cash of late (8), DOWN: 1 Flatter a good man with real potential (6), 2 None declined, so it's thought (6), 3 Restrain drunken instructors (8), 4 Time for reflection just the same (4), 6 Note soil deficiency (6), 7 This instrument requires individual scoring (8), 8 Assuming proper personal cover (8), 11 The down-to-earth approach is dividing the country (7), 14 Faced with work, sat still (7), 17 The sad outcome of rent reduction (8), 18 A hanger-on in the main (8), 19 Pure ales brewed for enjoyment (8), 22 Stick with the present company (6), 23 Artist getting upset and difficult (6), 24 Agent holding back fish that's not active (6), 27 Treachery must involve hurt for someone (4).

SOLUTIONS

A crossword puzzle grid with some letters filled in, and a list of words to be placed in the grid.

QUICK CROSSWORD

- ACROSS: 1 Rule (5), 4 Declines (5), 10 Feed (7), 11 Requires (5), 12 Inexpensive (5), 13 Sheltered side (7), 15 Killed (4), 17 Coincided (5), 19 Senior (5), 22 Land measures (4), 25 Crony (7), 27 Din (5), 29 Lift (5), 30 Slim (7), 31 Large ray (5), 32 Wander (5), DOWN: 2 Avoid (5), 3 Brief look (7), 5 Wash (5), 6 Get ready (7), 7 Quick meal (5), 8 Oceanic mammal (5), 9 Stage whisper (6), 14 Large jug (4), 16 Precede (4), 18 Publicity trick (7), 20 Indulgent (7), 21 Contempt (5), 23 Stop (5), 24 Joyful (5), 26 Representative (5), 28 Subcontinent (5).

GENERAL ASSISTANCE

Advertisement for 'GENERAL ASSISTANCE' featuring 'EMERGENCY PHARMACIES' and 'DUTY HOSPITALS'. It lists various medical services, pharmacies, and hospitals available 24 hours a day in Jerusalem, Tel Aviv, and Haifa.

Barak continues to receive death threats

Calls taken seriously, protection beefed up

ANONYMOUS calls threatening the life of Supreme Court President Aharon Barak were received by Jerusalem police Tuesday afternoon and yesterday morning, and an intensive investigation is under way to locate the callers, a police spokesman said.

"The minute the security is taken away from Barak, he will be assassinated," one caller threatened.

"I want to inform the police that I am going to kill Aharon Barak," another caller said.

Police have already located the public phone, in Jerusalem's Romema neighborhood, from which Tuesday's call was made and have questioned several people, the spokesman said.

The General Security Service and police are taking the threats, and others reportedly received at Barak's home, seriously. Barak has come under fire in haredi circles for handing down what hared-

BILL HUTMAN, RAINE MARCUS, and Itim

im regard as anti-religious decisions, including postponing the closure of Rehov Bar-Ilan on Shabbat.

Since earlier this week, several policemen have been stationed outside his home, and patrol cars pass through the area periodically. The GSS VIP Protection Department has assigned a bodyguard to Barak.

But Army Radio reported yesterday that the security was lax and that it is possible to approach his home via a rear courtyard.

It said that reporter Ori Gordon had no trouble getting into the rear courtyard of Barak's apartment building at 9 p.m. on Tuesday, as only one guard was stationed at the front. As Gordon was preparing to leave, he noticed the guard making his

half-hourly rounds and hid. He remained undetected.

Knesset Speaker Dan Tichon has called a special Knesset session for next Tuesday to discuss the issue of attacks on the judiciary.

The Tel Aviv Bar Association has called an emergency meeting for Sunday to protest the threats on Barak's life. Members of the association will also discuss steps to be taken in view of the threats.

In a letter to Barak, association chairman Moshe Aloni said that the legal community "cannot remain indifferent to the dangerous situation which threatens the independence of the legal system and the life of a senior personage employed by that system."

"It troubles me deeply that we have reached a stage at which the president of the Supreme Court must be surrounded by bodyguards," he wrote.



Supreme Court President Aharon Barak, under the protection of security guards, arrives at his home yesterday. (Brian Heald)

WEATHER

Forecast: Partly cloudy to clear. No change in temperatures.

City	Low	High	Forecast
Jerusalem	17-30	22-35	clear
Tel Aviv	22-30	27-32	clear
Haifa	23-30	28-33	clear
Beersheva	19-28	24-29	clear
Dead Sea	25-38	30-43	clear
East	23-33	28-33	clear

AROUND THE WORLD

City	Low	High	Forecast
Amsterdam	10	20	cloudy
Berlin	15	24	cloudy
Buenos Aires	22	32	clear
Cairo	18	31	clear
Chicago	16	26	clear
Copenhagen	17	26	cloudy
Frankfurt	16	26	clear
Geneva	15	25	cloudy
Hong Kong	27	31	clear
Jakarta	26	31	clear
London	12	20	cloudy
Los Angeles	19	29	clear
Madrid	15	25	clear
Moscow	11	21	clear
Munich	16	26	clear
New York	20	31	cloudy
Paris	15	25	clear
Rome	19	29	cloudy
Stockholm	13	23	cloudy
Sydney	13	24	cloudy
Tokyo	19	29	cloudy
Toronto	16	26	cloudy
Vienna	16	26	cloudy

Veterinary group says public health is endangered by unsupervised meat slaughter

Health Ministry: Agriculture Ministry is responsible

THE unsupervised meat-slaughtering business is earning more than \$1 million annually, and by ignoring all health regulations seriously risks endangering the public health, Yisrael Glass, head of the Israel Veterinary Medical Association, said yesterday.

Glass, appearing at a Tel Aviv news conference, said that according to data collected by the association, 38,000 heads of cattle and 95,000 sheep were slaughtered illegally in the country last year. The unsupervised meat constitutes 35% of all beef slaughtered in Israel, and 60% of all mutton. He said the number of pigs that are slaughtered with no supervision could not be estimated.

The main source of such meat, he said, is the autonomous areas, from where the meat is brought in on trucks and vans to collection points.

The Agriculture Ministry said it is "ready to take over" responsibility for supervising meat production and marketing instead of sharing it with the Health Ministry, because "they do it badly and we can do it better," ministry spokesman Naftali Yaniv said yesterday.

JUDY SIEGEL and Itim

Glass attributed the problem of supervision to a lack of manpower in the Health Ministry and local authorities.

"The Health Ministry's Food Service Division has only two veterinarians, an inspector and a secretary. They're responsible for all meat processing plants in the country, as well as marketing of fish and eggs, and can't handle it all," the association head said.

In addition, the border crossing with Egypt has only a single vet during the day - and at night, anything goes.

"When there is no vet on duty, there is widespread smuggling of seafood, and the amount of smuggled goods is equal to the amount of legally imported ones - eight or 10 tons a year," the association said, in material they distributed to reporters.

In Tira in the Galilee Triangle, a meat processing plant has operated without a license for years, sending its products to 260 restaurants in the Dan Region and other areas, the vets maintained. They also charged that no law requires

meat processing companies to employ their own veterinarians, and that some of those who are hired by companies have a one-fifth-time position "during which they spend their time only stamping labels saying "veterinarian-inspected."

Yaniv argued that companies themselves should not employ vets, because they would be dependent on their employers and would fear reporting shortcomings.

Health Ministry spokesman Efrat Labav did not comment directly on the vets' charges, but said supervision of slaughtering and bulk production of frozen and fresh meat is in the hands of the Agriculture Ministry, while the Health Ministry supervises food sold in the markets and used in restaurants.

Meanwhile, the vets' association said they had introduced a "Green Label," certifying high-quality supervision of meat production. Companies that have already earned the label include Supercol and Hypercol. McDonald's restaurants, Dan Hotels and Tnuva are in the process of getting the certification.

Turkey, Israel sign delayed defense industry pact

ISRAEL and Turkey yesterday signed another defense agreement, which is expected to pave the way for implementing the belated \$650 million deal to upgrade Turkey's fleet of 54 F-4 Phantom jets.

The agreement on technical know-how, delayed since the Islamic-led government of Turkey's Prime Minister Necmettin Erbakan took over, is seen as an attempt to balance the massive energy and trade deals Turkey signed recently with Iran and some 20 other Muslim nations.

Defense Ministry Director-General David Ivry signed the deal in Ankara, Turkish Foreign Ministry spokesman Omar Akbel said. A military official signed for Turkey.

Ivry's one-day visit had been delayed for more than a month by Erbakan's government, which refrained from enhancing the defense ties with Israel, despite the readiness of Turkey's powerful military establishment to do so.

Defense Ministry officials would only confirm that the deal was signed, but declined to give details. The officials said there were instructions to keep a low profile on the whole affair.

Earlier military agreements reportedly allowing Israeli jets to train in Turkish airspace and for both nations to exchange security information provoked angry reactions from neighboring Arab nations. During Erbakan's visit earlier this month to Teheran, Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei told Erbakan he hoped that Ankara would rid itself of its links with Israel.

While in the opposition, Erbakan's Welfare Party sharply criticized the budding alliance between his country and Israel. But with the decision to continue ties, it appears that Erbakan has reversed his loudly declared position that he would cancel the agreements when he came to power.

Meanwhile, AP reported that Turkey's Foreign Minister Tancu Ciller is to make a two-day visit to Jordan starting next Tuesday. Jordan has reacted mildly to the growing military ties between Turkey and Israel, saying it would bolster cooperation between the two countries.

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Meretz executive to discuss demand for Zucker's resignation

MERETZ'S executive yesterday scheduled a debate for Sunday to address party members' demand to demote MK Dedi Zucker, due to the conflict-of-interest debacle relating to his involvement with the Camera Obscura photography school.

Five party members met Zucker yesterday and demanded his resignation.

"We expect a Meretz MK not to behave like other Knesset members, who hold onto their seats. The affair is not good for Meretz," executive member Maozia Segal said.

Zucker, who has already been fined three months' wages by the Knesset Ethics Committee, is now being investigated by police for his part in obtaining allocations for Camera Obscura while he served as the Knesset Law Committee chairman under the previous government. The affair is causing Meretz, which has always been at the forefront in battles for "clean government," a great deal of embarrassment.

Zucker said yesterday that he has only begun to try to clear his name.

"Suddenly five Meretz members are taking advantage of what seems to be a weakness and are judging me and sentencing me," he said.

Meretz Chairman Hanan Erez said that now - before the investigation is concluded - is too early to demand that Zucker resign from the Knesset. Michal Yudelman

Haredim, secular unhappy with Shabbat road-closure panel

HAREDI officials said yesterday that they would not cooperate with the committee set up by Transport Minister Yitzhak Levy to investigate the issue of closing streets on Shabbat, while secular leaders were also critical of the makeup of the committee, which has four religious and four secular members.

The committee is headed by Dr. Zvi Tzameret, the director of the Ben-Zvi Institute in Jerusalem. A veteran educator and an Avi-Hai Prize winner, Tzameret has been active in conducting dialogues between religious and secular Jews.

Other secular members of the committee include Israel Prize winner Prof. Eliezer Schweid of the Hebrew University; Prof. Galia Golan of the Hebrew University, whose membership on the committee aroused haredi ire because she had taken part in the demonstrations to keep Rehov Bar-Ilan open on Shabbat; and Eliahu Hason, former director-general of the Transport Ministry.

On the religious side, the committee includes Rabbi Zvi Weinman, a veteran rabbinical court pleader and a leading figure in the haredi community; Haifa Chief Rabbi She'ar-Yashuv Cohen, a figure identified with the National Religious Party; Prof. Daniel Sperber, of Bar-Ilan University, an Israel Prize winner for his research in Talmud, and Rabbi Shmuel Jakobovitz, son of the former chief rabbi of Great Britain, who has recently become involved in promoting religious-secular dialogue.

However, despite the apparent effort to create a balanced group, the committee was subject to criticism from both camps. MK Moshe Gafni (United Torah Judaism) said that his party has no connection with the committee. Jerusalem Deputy Mayor Haim Miller (UTJ) said that official representatives of the haredi community would not cooperate with the committee, although individuals could appear before it.

In the secular camp, Jerusalem City Councilman Omer Yekutieli (Meretz) said the committee does not reflect the true composition of Israeli society, which is mostly secular.

The committee, which was appointed by Levy in accordance with a ruling earlier this month by the High Court of Justice, is due to present its findings within two months.

Karp: Child prostitutes earn billions for organized crime

CHILD prostitution and child pornography are among the most lucrative enterprises of organized crime, Deputy State Attorney Yehudit Karp told Israel Radio yesterday from Stockholm, where she is attending the World Congress Against Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children.

The investment is negligible, because the children are often kidnaped or lured under false pretenses, and the return is enormous, because each child may have dozens of clients a day, Karp said. The income involved, she added, is "in the billions."

Karp was a member of the UN committee that organized the conference, which has been in the planning for two years.

The congress was overshadowed by new revelations in the case of two eight-year-old Belgian girls, who died of starvation while in the hands of a pedophile gang. Today, Interpol in Bratislava said gang leader Mark Dutroux is suspected of murdering one Slovakian girl and kidnaping another.

The Belgian case brought to light the fact that child prostitution exists "even in Western countries, where we thought it didn't exist," Karp said.

There is a dearth of data on the subject in Israel, she said. The authorities relate to child prostitution as a marginal phenomenon, but "field workers, who deal with children on the street, see it as a serious matter," involving not only prostitutes brought into Israel, but also local children, she said.

One hoped-for outcome of the congress is a change in the public's attitude toward those who buy the services of children, she said, that it condemns exploitation of minors up to the age of 18 and not just children under 16, the age of sexual consent, she said.

Participating countries are expected to commit themselves to following a plan of action formulated before the congress began, Karp added. The plan concerns education of parents and children, enforcement, prevention, and rehabilitation.

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